The Long Island FISHERMAN

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JULY 27th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 30 ★ 13th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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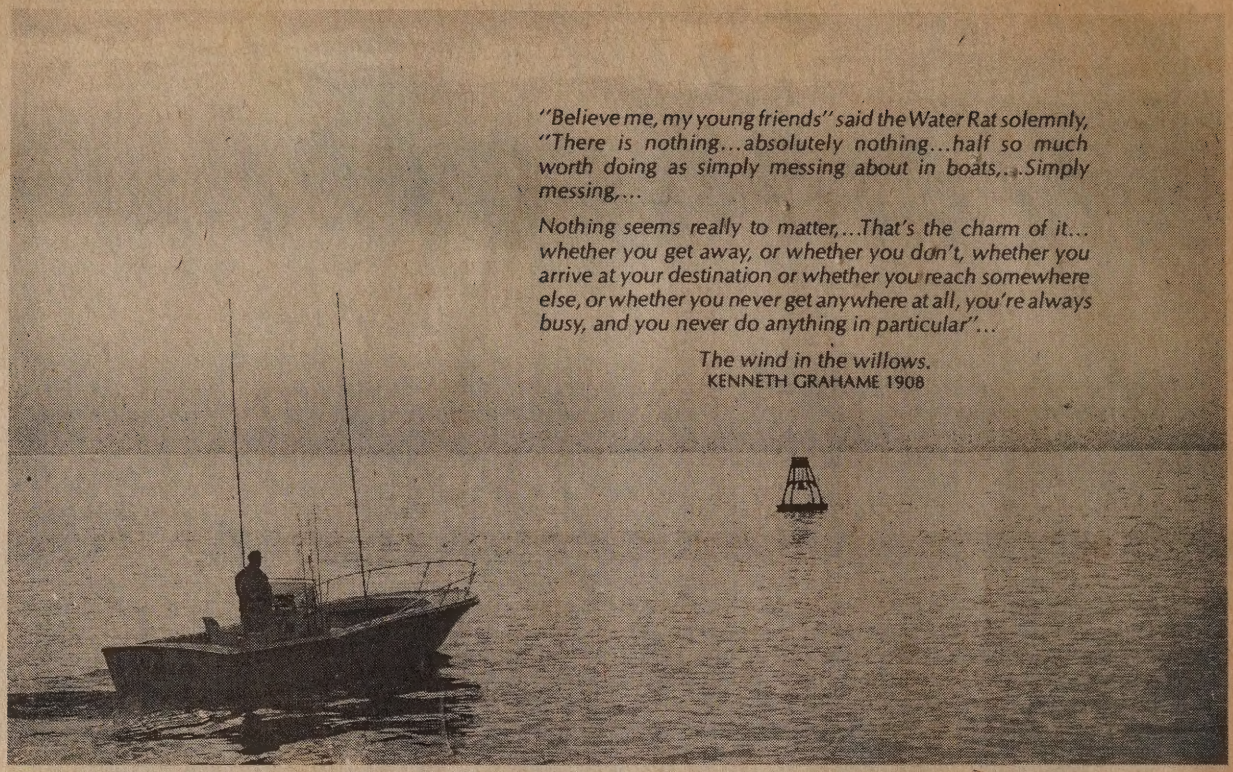

"Believe me, my young friends" said the Water Rat solemnly, "There is nothing...absolutely nothing...half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,...Simply messing,...

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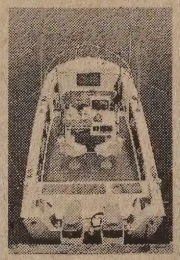

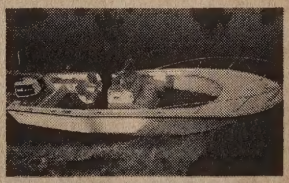

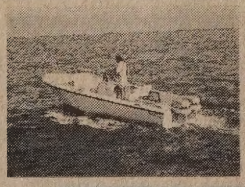

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 30 JULY 27, 1978

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PECONIC PORGIES

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Captain John Sekora *(left)*, and his mate try to unhook three bluefish before their frantic attempts to escape tangle the umbrella rig into hopeless knots. See the article *Twist 'N Shout* on page 14 by Doc Muller.

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Pass It On...

SUPREME COURT STRIKES AT INTERSTATE FISHING

Splitting 6 to 3, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld a Montana law requiring higher fees from out-of-state residents for hunting and fishing licenses. Decided on May 23, the case of Baldwin vs. Montana Fish and Game Commission will allow fish and game commissions to continue discriminating against out-of-state sportsmen. In twelve states, the penalty is higher by as much as 500 percent.

Recreational hunting and fishing are not "basic" enough to be considered appropriate to "constitutional" protection, concluded Justice Blackmun for the majority. Further, he said, the higher fees are justified because non-residents escape paying normal state taxes which provide a share of the wildlife conservation monies to the states.

Representing the three justices voting in the minority, Justice William Brennan, Jr., commenting on the fees, said they are "not a valid effort by Montana to recoup state expenditures, but a price gouged from those who can satisfactorily pursue their avocation in no other state." He was joined by Justices White and Marshall in his dissent.

The decision is particularly onerous to the recreational boating industry where fishing activities are a major contributor to sales of engines, boats, and trailers. George Page, President of NAEBM, commenting on the decision said, "The ability afforded by trailerable boats to pursue sportfishing in a variety of locales won't be helped by the decision, which in effect, condones the establishment of tariff barriers between states."

RECORD-KEEPING FOR FRESHWATER FISH TRANSFERRED TO IGFA

Field and Stream Magazine has officially turned over its freshwater record-keeping responsibilities and all accompanying historical data to the International Game Fish Association. Michael J. O'Neill, publisher of **Field & Stream**, formally transferred custodianship of the records to Elwood K. Harry, President of IGFA, at a press luncheon held March 22, 1978 at the 21 Club in New York City.

"We have been the repository of these records for a very long time and it has been part of the great outdoor tradition of our magazine," said O'Neill. "In recent years, it has become apparent that the keeping of both the fresh and saltwater game fish records is an international heritage which must be passed on carefully to future generations of fishermen. IGFA is a highly dedicated organization which will devote the time and funds necessary to preserve these priceless records."

Field & Stream began keeping both fresh and salt water records 68 years ago. In 1939, the saltwater records system was turned over to IGFA when the task became too great for the magazine to handle alone. IGFA now becomes the international authority on world records for both fresh and salt water fish.

"We are deeply appreciative of this opportunity to add **Field & Stream's** voluminous freshwater records to our many years of saltwater records," said IGFA President Harry. "IGFA has greatly expanded its worldwide operations, and we intend to enlarge and improve this record-keeping system. Our aim will be to develop a set of ethical freshwater angling rules and world record requirements that will meet with the modern needs of anglers in the various states and countries throughout the world. This program will parallel the record-keeping system now in effect for saltwater fish. IGFA also plans to serve and represent freshwater anglers in the same manner as we now act for saltwater anglers."

The physical transfer and the analysis of the freshwater record-keeping system, coupled with any changes and re-establishment within IGFA, will entail considerable time and effort. Notices of progress will be issued in news releases and in IGFA's **International Marine Angler** publication.

STRIPERS UNLIMITED UNVEILS RESEARCH FINDINGS AND PROBLEMS

Stripers Unlimited, Inc., is a conservation organization working for the preservation of striped bass. We are particularly interested in the Maryland strain, which is unique because of its buoyant egg and would be valuable for starting new populations in the dammed rivers of the northeast. We believe this strain is endangered due to the extremely high levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons in the oil globules of the larval fish and in the ripe eggs of the females.

Over the last six years, Stripers Unlimited has observed and photographed great damage to the eggs and fry of Maryland striped bass. The ripe eggs of a single female (3,000,000 eggs) are so highly contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons, mainly PCBs, eighty-five percent of the eggs are destroyed by the stretching and tearing of the egg membranes due to tissue weakness. The chorions (outer protective membrane) break up to twelve hours too early, leaving the inert larvae helpless. The sac-fry which do survive then feed upon their oil globule for several days before their jaws develop (the oil is highly contaminated) and become paralyzed and die. Ninety-nine percent of those surviving to become swim-up fry, have swim bladders which fail to

inflate. The very few which do not succumb to these other stages are obviously nerve damaged. They are hyperactive and die from the slightest shock. Their feeding habits are drastically changed. Any of the above stages are critical to survival and should be cause for concern.

In the spring of 1976, less than one percent of the fish captured during the spring harvest of striped bass in Maryland were new fish entering the fishery. Historically, these three, four, and five-year-old fish made up eighty percent of the harvest.

Maryland Sea Grant Program offered to put $10,000 into verifying these findings this spring if matching funds could be found. No agency was willing to match this modest amount.

The Doctors Fingerman from Tulane University in Louisiana have found that PCBs inhibit a brain hormone, serotonin, which controls the body's clockwork (heart beat, respiration, blood pressure, sleep cycle, etc.) and may cause learning disabilities. It causes hyperactvity in fish and causes fiddlers crabs to lose their ability to molt.

At a recent Conference on the Chesapeake Bay sponsored by the States of Maryland and Virginia, 300 scientific and conservation people from the two States and the Federal Government (EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.) came to the conclusion that the bay is healthy, even though they documented drastic declines in most of the species inhabiting the bay. They did not even mention striped bass, although this is one of the important fisheries of the area. They have not had a successful set of oysters in four years and eighty percent of the aquatic vegetation is gone. (Recent studies show herbicides present in the grasses of the bay.) This is the only new chemical insult to be added in vast quantities in the last ten years. Since no-till farming became prevalent, large dust storms carry the soil particles into the rivers, the grasses die and siltation spreads into the bay. Some of the rivers which drain the watershed of the bay have lost their populations of freshwater fishes.

State and Federal agencies are not willing to deal with the situation. Efforts to carry on research into the damage being caused by chlorinated hydrocarbons has been discouraged according to some scientists and others are afraid of losing their jobs if they speak out. A spokesman for the Maryland Fisheries Administration, when asked if the State intended to hire a bio-chemist to study the problem, said absolutely not.

Similar abnormalities are being observed all over the world among fisheries researchers, so this is not just a local problem. Stop-gap measures are no longer acceptable. Good, basic research is needed and needs to be done immediately. The public needs to be aroused to the seriousness of the situation.

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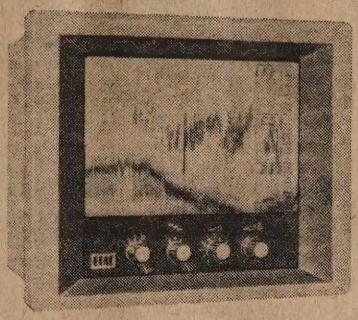

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

Lucky Fishermen?

DID YOU EVER SPIT ON A HOOK FOR LUCK? In the experiences that you have had as a fisherman, I'm sure that you have witnessed many types of bizarre behavior, and if you're anything like me, you've been guilty of a little of that behavior yourself from time to time. In spite of the fact that we are convinced that the color of a plug doesn't matter, and that spitting on your hook is a waste of time—we do it anyway, don't we? I've got a couple of beauties myself and until today, I've told no one. There is one spot that I fish where I always make my first cast in the following manner: I cast the lure as far as I can, but instead of letting the plug settle before beginning a slow retrieve, I bounce the plug a few times and then resume a normal retrieve. I catch fish, too! Superstition? Scientists are now telling us that maybe there is some validity to these strange habits.

RESEARCH INTO SUPERSTITIOUS BEHAVIOR AMONG FISHERMEN. A group of scientists studied the problem carefully—although for the life of me I can't figure out why. If Senator Proxmire ever hears about this there will be a new award to this group. Anyway, they found that there are good reasons why we find that these habits improve our luck. Take spitting on the lure, for example. Silly, right? Not so! We know that fish are very sensitive to odors. In fact, many fish can detect odors at concentrations as low as one part in one trillion! So the scientists tell us that perhaps trace odors of gum, candy, tobacco, beer, soda, and other foods, as well as the fisherman's own natural smells may attract the fish. It is not known, however, whether any or all of the above-mentioned items are actually attractants. So, keep on spitting boys and girls—only now stand up proud. You don't have to sneak around; you are applying a scientific principle!

LUCKY LURES. There really is such a thing as a lucky lure. Scientists tell us that lures vary slightly in terms of action and sound. These subtle differences may not be detectable by the fisherman, but the fish can tell the difference. One can only guess (with a capital G) about the reasons why this is so—but it is sufficient that it is! Superimposed on this fact, the scientists tell us, is the human psychological factor. A fisherman's method of fishing with a plug that he or she considers to be lucky may be very different from the approach used when working a lure that has not caught fish before. Because the fisherman believes in the plug, he works it carefully and concentrates constantly on both the presentation and the retrieve. When this application is added to the preferred action or the rattle of a good working plug, the result is a caught fish!

LUCKY COLORS. First of all, fish are colorblind. However, that doesn't mean that they cannot tell the difference between one color and another. They can indeed, based upon the difference in shades. Thus, color is important and there are times when it is **all important**. However, have you ever fished near someone who was using a strange color. Perhaps it was lime green, magenta, or shocking pink. Perhaps you have tried those colors on various occasions and caught nothing; but here's this fella throwing that plug out and banging the fish one after the other. Why? No one really knows the answer, but the explanation probably resides somewhere in the twilight zone. It may be some strange variation in the way that fisherman retrieves, or it may be the direction of the cast. It is not likely that you could figure out the reason for the success, even if you studied the goings-on for a long, long time. I have never done very much with odd-colored plugs—even bluefish haven't noticed my bright orange poppers. Nevertheless, I always carry the little devils, but they just don't work for me.

SKILL IS STILL THE MOST IMPORTANT! In an effort to answer the question of why some fishermen are luckier than others, the scientists were not able to attribute a tremendous significance to oddball habits. They found that "lucky" fishermen, in effect, make their own luck. Basics are still the secret to success. Fishermen who keep their tackle in tiptop shape, sharpen hooks, use new line, vary their methods, put a lot of time in, and persevere are the ones who succeed.

WOMEN MAKE FISHING NEWS! It's really great the way so many gals are getting head-over-heels involved in fishing. I like it especially because it's basically the girls who bring up the children of this world and I hope that one of the things that they teach the kids is a respect for marine life and the environment. There is no better way to develop this appreciation and then become an Evangelist than to go fishing. Here are some noteworthy recent catches of record and near-record fish.

Patsy Rego: Yellowfin Tuna—247½ lbs., record 50 lb. line class.

Sylvia Naibet: Thresher shark—138 lbs., record 12 lb. line class.

Thresher shark—174½ lbs., record 20 lb. line class.

Patt Hawn: blue marlin—560 lbs., Linda Koerner: blue marlin—1018½ lbs., record 20 lb. line class.

July O'Louchlin: yellowtail—73¼ lb., record 30 lb. line class.

Congratulations girls, that's the way to go!

MORE FISH IN YOUR FUTURE. In an age of declining environmental quality and fewer and fewer fish, it's nice to hear that there may be a relatively inexpensive way to put more fish in our futures and solve an environmental problem at the same time. It's been known for a long, long time that structure—whether it is created by nature or man—both attracts fish and promotes their reproduction. Man has attempted to help this process by building artificial fishing reefs, but the cost of the construction of the reefs usually prohibits large-scale activity. Now scientists tell us that there may be a way around this problem. The country is littered with scrap tires and it turns out that they not only make excellent reef material, but the construction of breakwaters and jetties give us the added bonuses of erosion control, siltation reduction, and estuary stabilization. Tests performed on breakwaters constructed of scrap tires show that the tires reduce wave force by more than seventy-five percent and almost completely kills the wakes from boats. The cost of building conventional breakwaters and other water deflecting structures usually costs anywhere from $200 to $500 a linear foot. Using old tires, that cost drops to about $4 to $30 a foot. Tires are non-toxic and they are very resistant to the effects of saltwater. There are about two billion scrap tires now available in the United States and we add about two hundred million more each year. Thus, an abundant supply of them appears to be the prospect for many years. The idea isn't new and the New York DEC has used old tires along with concrete rubble and other scrap materials for sometime. However, it might be worthwhile to consider the potential of large scale use of the tires to promote a better environment.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON AN AGE OLD PROBLEM. The summer is the time when bugs are the bane of the night fisherman. We smoke cigars, spray ourselves with toxic concoctions and still the bugs find us. However, scientists say that by following a few simple rules, you can go a long way towards keeping the gnats and mosquitoes under control. Biting bugs are attracted by carbon dioxide, the gas that we exhale. So, scientists say walk slowly and at a steady pace.

(Continued on page 9.)

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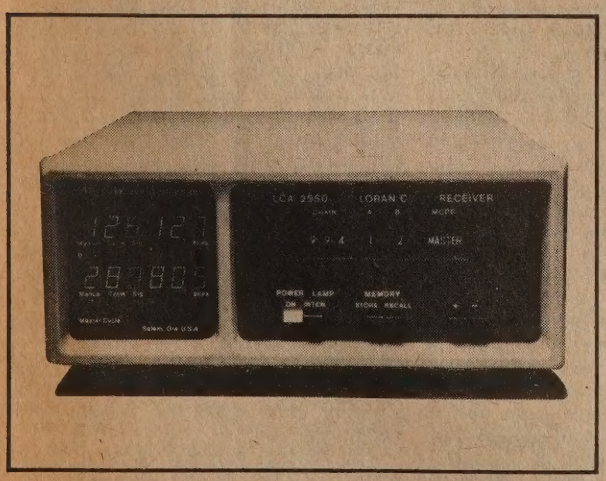

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

STRIPED BASS DEBATE GOES ON

Nancy Goell, one of the public members of the Mid-Atlantic Council from New York, called recently to ask for clarification of some points in my column of July 6. I noted in that article that most members agreed with Chairman Dave Hart that the resolution, opposing any change in State laws relative to striped bass prior to receiving recommendations from the State-Federal task force, "referred to matters within State jurisdiction and really wasn't any of our business." Toward the end of the article I mentioned that the resolution was voted down. Because of the distance between paragraphs some doubt may exist as to why the resolution was defeated. There is no question but that most members simply felt the Council shouldn't get involved in areas outside of its jurisdiction. Due to the press of other business, the substantive issues (which I brought up in the column) were never really debated. If there was any misunderstanding on that point, I hope this sets it straight.

Nancy was also concerned that her stand might, in some way, be viewed as anti-conservation or anti-sport fishing. Such is certainly not the case. I imagine that many, if not most, rod and reel fishermen support the position she takes, rather than the twenty-six inch limit. As far as conservation is concerned, the question here is simply one of procedure—not intent. Nancy is under the impression that the State-Federal program will have a coordinated approach ready to go within the year. If I thought that the representatives of every coastal state could come up with a unified approach that quickly, I'd endorse the resolution. After having worked on the striped bass problem over the course of two decades, I hope you'll excuse a little pessimism on my part. As has often been said, the striped bass is the most studied and least understood of marine game fish. The one thing that everyone can agree on is that, just as the resolution suggested, the only logical approach to truly managing the resource is one coordinated among the states that host the migratory bass at sometime during the year. The problem, as my column brought out, is that the only protection the striped bass has received over the years has been on a state-by-state basis—imperfect, but a lot better than nothing!

I don't feel that the twenty-six inch limit is the ideal solution to a very difficult problem. I support it because it is a biologically sound concept and the only politically acceptable proposal that's been advanced recently in New York. Since there are so few small bass around, it won't have an enormous impact one way or the other. However, it will indicate that New York is finally willing to do something, rather than sitting back and benefiting from Maryland's protection of large spawners; Massachusett's "hook and line" law (without which I doubt if we'd even have many big fish to catch these days), and other state laws which have at least put some restrictions on the harvest.

Should the many differing opinions from all the coastal states involved be resolved, and a coordinated approach agreed on, the new regulations will have to be acted on by legislatures in most states. At that point, it's simply a matter of substituting the new regulations for the old.

The debate here reminds me of the 200 Mile Limit question a mere five or six years ago. At that time, we were assured by the State Department that we need have no fear for our fishery resources as everything was going to be taken care of in the Law of the Sea Conference. On the other hand, I insisted that, despite the fact that most countries were unilaterally adopting 200 Mile limits, the Conference would be so burdened with conflicting opinions that agreement would be years away. Yet, State fought the 200 Mile limit to the very end, even after some of the most idealistic internationalists switched over. The Law of the Sea Conference goes on, not much closer to a solution than when I attended the first meeting in Caracas. It's represented a boom in employment for international bureaucrats, but if we hadn't passed our 200 Mile limit, there wouldn't be much left in the offshore waters for our fishermen to fight over!

I trust that the State-Federal program won't turn out like the Law of the Sea Conference, and no one will be happier if Nancy's expectations of quick decisions are correct. I've been fighting for this sort of approach for years and in no way wish to demean it. Unfortunately, after a coordinated approach is decided on, there is every likelihood that it will take years to gain the approval of every state involved. Yet, the problem is here, now! The only question I raise is whether we should try some conservation method in the meantime, or simply hope for the best until everyone can agree on a subject that almost no one (fisherman or biologist) has been able to get together on up to this point?

While on the subject, I'll also have to take exception to Dick Mermon's letter in the same issue. Dick took Ron Onorato to task for suggesting conservation measures while loading up himself. Far from being hypocritical, Ron's attitude is refreshing! Here's a fisherman who makes a substantial portion of his living selling striped bass and he says, "even if it hurts me financially, take the fish off the market and thereby relieve much of the pressure on them." It's easy for a sportsman to favor restrictions on striped bass fishing, as they will have little effect on him. If anything, such restrictions will be beneficial. However, when the DeMaio's and the Onorato's call for restrictions, a real commitment to conservation is displayed. As a Council member, I wish that other types of commercial fishermen would adopt the same attitude. Unfortunately, that is rarely the case. Almost every fisherman assumes that his personal conservation efforts are wasted if the next fellow can catch what he passes up. That is why the only practical approach is regulations that apply to all and serve the ultimate purpose of improving the fishery for everyone. Those skillful enough to catch bass under difficult circumstances don't deserve criticism—that should be reserved for those so selfish and unthinking that they'd fish the species into virtual extinction rather than lose a dollar or a meal!

Purse Seine Season on School Tuna Ends

The open purse seine season on school bluefin tuna was closed on June 24, as the quota of 800 short tons had been taken. The purse seiners had started working off the Virginia and North Carolina Coasts on June 12. Though the quota was filled within two weeks, that represents a much longer period than last year, when it took only a few days to over-fill the allocation. Each of the last two years tuna fishing has dropped off to practically nothing after the big early season hauls well south of us. As a result, I've urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to postpone the purse seine fishery to the fall—a request which hasn't even been acknowledged as yet. An additional 200 short tons of school tuna is reserved for the purse seine fleet and can be taken at any time during the year incidental to the conduct of a scientific bluefin tuna tagging project.

The NMFS Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Program sport fishing survey began its fourth year in March. All major ports from Virginia to New York will be covered by port samplers working

for Dr. Phyllis Cahn, Chairman of the Marine and Environmental Science Department at C. W. Post College, which has the contract for this work. Mark Holliday will be field coordinator and will cover Montauk. He can be reached at 516-299-2427. John Waldman will cover Babylon and ports to the east. He'll operate out of Augie's Bait and Tackle Shop (516-669-9837). Freeport will be handled by Jerry Morreale, who will be based at Charvin Fishing Station (516-378-8748). Primary purpose of the survey is an accurate estimate of the total number of school tuna caught by sport fishermen along the Coast. With your assistance, data will also be gathered on effort (time required to catch a tuna) and the sizes and age classes of the fish boated. Some biological sampling will also take place. Your cooperation in this very important project is requested.

One other Government project that anglers should be aware of is the 1978 Billfish and Shark Mail and Telephone Survey. This will provide the Councils with better information on the sport fishing catch of those species and the amount of effort expended in the sport. More than 55,000 interview forms were mailed on June 8 to a randomly selected group of boat owners along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. If you received one of these cards, be sure to fill it out accurately and return it on time. This approach is being used because the Councils found considerable opposition to the proposed issuance of permits to billfish anglers in order to keep track of the catch. If the survey gets the type of cooperation anticipated, there should be no need for angler permits in this or other management plans.

(Continued from page 6.)

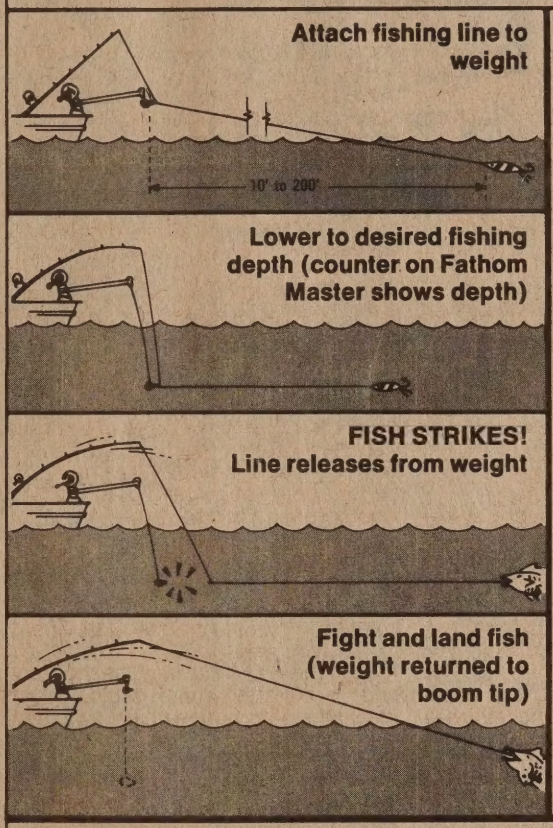
Make frequent pauses to allow your body to slow down. Keep your mouth closed so that the exhaled gases do not come out in a big cloud that may hang around your head. Wear light colors, but not bright colors. Light gray or blue, etc., are effective. Bugs are attracted to dark colors and to bright ones, even at night. Wear long-sleeve cotton shirts that will allow for ample heat exchange and cover as much skin as possible at the same time. Do not wear cologne (or perfume for you ladies). Wash thoroughly before leaving for the fishing trip. Bugs are attracted more by body heat than by perspiration. Try not to become overheated. If you're fighting a fish, do so as calmly as possible. Let the rod and reel do the work. Take frequent breaks and cool down. Allow as much heat to escape from your head as possible. The head is capable of tremendous heat exchange. Thus, wear a hat to keep the bugs out of your scalp, but it should have lots of tiny air passages so you can lose heat. If you do use bug repellent use it wisely. Remember that it is poisonous and irritating to eyes, mouth, and nose membranes.

FOR DEEP TROLLING (600/620)

FATHOM-MASTER®

The Fathom-master drag-brake system provides simple one hand operation of lowering and stopping weight/lure. Permits payout of cable if weight snags on bottom. Includes pulley and line guide assembly with full tracking capability. All metal and reinforced LEXAN and nylon parts. And dependable gear driver cable footage counter.

PENN REELS


Attach fishing line to weight
10' to 200'
Lower to desired fishing depth (counter on Fathom Master shows depth)
FISH STRIKES! Line releases from weight
Fight and land fish (weight returned to boom tip)

FEATURES

- You can lower weight to desired depth evenly, smoothly — has famous Penn drag brake control.
- Handle does not rotate while weight is descending
- Cable footage counter shows you exact depth of weight and lure.
- Easy to mount, stow away, and remount on your boat.
- Comes with 200 ft. stainless steel wire(400 ft., 600 ft. optional) and Fathom-trol® Ball Weight, 10 lb.
- Model with 25" boom (#600 — Shown) or Swivelmatic 48" boom (#620) which swivels 180° to make rigging easy.

MODEL 600

Includes 200 ft. 135 lb. test stranded stainless cable, 25 in. boom.

MODEL 620

4 ft. boom. Comes with SWIVEL-MATIC® base.

Note: Both models come with 10 lb. Fathom-Trol weight.

PATENT NO. 3,967,405 3,961,438 3,974,589 Other Patents Pending

Send for **FREE** Fathom-Master Brochure

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Are We Really Nuts?

I am sure you've noticed most dedicated sinker bouncers are a class unto themselves; and as I consider myself in this group, I often wonder what makes us tick. A surf fishing buddy once told me he had figured it out. "You guys are all nuts," he said. Although I felt his remark was akin to the pot calling the kettle black, he possibly had a point, for his caustic comment would certainly apply to me. For instance, one of my old record books pertaining to a Canarsie party boat trip made on a dismal, dreary Lincoln's Birthday back in 1932 contains the following: "Was on board the Fidus at 6:30, but because of the heavy fog, didn't leave until 8:45. Thought we would have to cancel the trip, but lucky for us, it rained and drove the fog away." Can you imagine anyone considering himself "lucky" because rain gave him an opportunity to go fishing? Are we really nuts? Well ... Maybe... We fished 17 Fathom Bank that gloomy day and evidently my "luck" still held, for I won the pool with a twelve-pound cod: five bucks, which wasn't exactly hay during that depression-ridden time. As it cost twenty-five cents to enter the pool those days, this proved to my satisfaction that there had to be at least twenty other "nuts" on board. I include this bit of fishing nostalgia to show that contemporary die-hard anglers have no edge on nuttiness. I'm afraid we're all tarred with the same brush.

But be that as it may, this established pattern had stood the test of time, for I can honestly say I've never allowed poor weather conditions to keep me from fishing (within reason, of course). And because of this, I've discovered many interesting things about fish in general. Which is all to the good, but there have been times when I've been sore put to exploit it to the fullest.

For instance, we all know that beautiful summer weekends bring out record-breaking boat traffic. It also appears that those places known to produce fish for us seem always to be in the area where this traffic is heaviest. Should you desire proof, ask any charter or party boat skipper what he must contend with on beautiful summer weekends.

This used to drive me out of my mind, for I had one fluke spot that I absolutely could not fish in safety on those traffic-heavy weekends. At the time I have in mind, weekends offered me the only opportunity to fish. I just could not get away during the week except during my annual vacation, and to keep the home-life happy I couldn't spend every single vacation day fishing, no matter how much I wanted to. Anyway, I cast about for an answer and found that the only solution was to fish that spot on weekends when no one in their right mind would venture forth. Did you ever hear of a fisherman hoping for a spell of bad weather? I guess my surf-casting buddy knew from whence he spoke.

The spot I desired to fish so desperately was the area surrounding buoy 20 in Reynold's Channel. This region had never failed to produce fluke for me—often in surprising numbers. It seemed that when other favorite spots failed, I could depend on Buoy 20 to provide a little action. It was an ace in the hole. I believe the reason for this is because the area isn't too far from Jones Inlet and constitutes a known haven for bait fish of all kinds. The region is also in one of the narrowest sections of Reynold's Channel and quickly shelves to deep water, which is a prime requisite for good fluke fishing. It was like having a captive audience.

I decided the only thing that was going to help was a bit of intense planning—or praying. After much contemplation on the matter, I first tried planning. This led to a brainstorm. I decided to get in some real old-fashioned early-bird fishing, and four thirty one Saturday morning found me huddled in a skiff on the east side of the channel, swigging coffee to keep off the night chill, and impatiently waiting for the first blush of dawn in order to make a few drifts and catch the fluke I positively knew were there. Was I really nuts? Well ... maybe.

The fluke were there all right, and I nailed seven before the boat traffic began. Party boats were no trouble; it was the occasional large private craft and small rental skiffs zipping along without a care in the world that worried me. After an hour-and-a-half, I quit. It was just as well, for I had only added two more fluke in that last half-hour—which troubled me no end for the fish were really in a feeding mood. But safety came first, and I got out of there in a hurry when some of those large craft threatened to swamp me with their wakes.

Thus, the planning didn't work. It was now time to evoke the fishing gods. Fishermen are a superstitious lot whether they admit it or not and I lost no time getting in my requests. Please, I implored, send some rain next weekend. A small-type northeaster wouldn't hurt, I explained, especially if it started the night before. Anything, I said, between a short-lived thunderstorm and a hurricane might prove beneficial.

Well, I watched the weather like a hawk as the next weekend approached. Nothing but sunny skies prevailed, however; so I settled for a bit of snapper fishing from the rear of Nick's Fishing Station in Merrick. But lo and behold, along about Thursday morning of the following week, there appeared thin, wispy Mare's Tails against the rich blue of the summer sky. Aha! Get that fluke tackle ready, Matt, for rain would surely come within twenty-four to thirty-six hours.

And on Friday evening it did.

The weather report promised an all-day rain, lasting probably into the evening, and the east wind that brought the storm proved the forecaster correct. When I awoke in the wee hours, that east wind was still on the job and I quickly donned my foul-weather gear and took off. The rain didn't seem heavy enough to halt all boat activity, but it sure was going to cut it down.

When I arrived at the buoy, I found two guys drifting across "my spot." Questions brought answers. They told me they always fished the area when the weather turned sour. As one guy put it: "Because of the boat traffic, it's the only way you can fish here on weekends." So I wasn't the only "nut" with wild ideas.

Although the poor weather did its part in halting most of the pleasure-boat traffic, it didn't help produce fluke. I hadn't gotten a fish on my first drift and my companions in the other skiff had nailed but two just before I arrived. At the moment, we couldn't even catch a toadfish or a sea robin.

Anybody got any ideas?" I called across to the other skiff.

"Yeah," one guy replied. "Let's go home!"

But as far as I was concerned, it was too early for that. I was positive the fish were there. That storm-caused low barometer reading was having its effect on the fluke. No question about it. What they needed was a little coaxing. Now, what did I have to coax them with? I looked in the killie car. There was a generous supply of assorted sizes and I pawed through it. If those fluke were refusing the two inch killies I always used, maybe they'd take a skinny one-incher.

I put one on by hooking it through the mouth and out the gill cover and sent the rig to the bottom. I don't believe I drifted five feet when I got a hit, but failed to make a hook-up. Another small killie. Another shot. But again, no hook-up. Then I did something I rarely do when fluke fishing. I anchored—on the safe edge of the channel—and began casting out to the center, retrieving the bait toward shallow water by barely turning the reel handle. I immediately got action. This time, though, when I felt weight, I let the fluke take all the time it needed to get the bait down. Only then did I raise the rod, cautiously feeling for the fish. The instant it gave signs of backing off, I would lift the rod tip and with a quick, smooth follow-through, sink the hook. Rarely did this method fail to work.

That was all it took for this nutty fisherman to hook

(Continued on page 21.)

BLACK SEA BASS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BLACK SEA BASS SEEK OUT ROCKY CREVICES AND CRANNIES, A FONDNESS THAT OFTEN LEADS THEM INTO LOBSTER POTS! PARTY BOAT CAPTAINS FROM CAPE COD TO CAPE HATTERAS ANCHOR OVER ROCKY SHELVES TO INSURE CATCHES OF THESE "HUMPBACKS."

ROD & REEL RECORD 8 LBS. LENGTH TO 2 FT.

AVID BAIT TAKERS, SEA BASS PUT UP A FAIR FIGHT AND FREEZE WELL. THEIR FIRM FLESH IS CONSIDERED A DELICACY BY MANY. BASS PREY ON OTHER FISH, SQUID, CLAMS AND CRUSTACEANS AS THEY RANGE ALONG THE EAST COAST.

SEA BASS, WHEN YOUNG ARE MOSTLY EGG PRODUCING FEMALES, BUT AT AROUND FIVE YEARS OF AGE, *MANY SWITCH SEX, BECOMING FUNCTIONAL MALES!*

SEA BASS COMPRISE 400 SPECIES FROM ½ INCH LONG TO OVER 1000 LBS. *(JEWFISH)*. A COUPLE OF CLOSE RELATIVES ARE THE NASSAU GROUPER AND THE PACIFIC COAST KELP BASS.

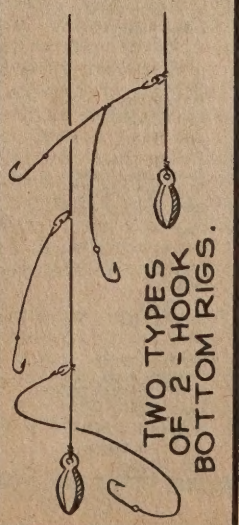
NASSAU GROUPER TO 3 FT.

SMALL SEA BASS (½ LB.) USED FOR LIVE-LINING STRIPED BASS.

KELP BASS TO 1½ FT.

STRIPER SHARPIES CUT OFF THE TOP & BOTTOM FINS.

BASS BITE ON CUT SQUID, CLAM AND ALL OTHER BAIT, COME INTO MOSS BUNKER CHUM SLICKS AND STRIKE WEAKFISH, BLUEFISH AND OTHER JIGS.



TWO TYPES OF 2-HOOK BOTTOM RIGS.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	2:13	2:48	3:11	3:53	2:59	3:35	4:09	4:43	6:36	7:05	5:56	6:24	2:10	2:47	7/27
FRI.	3:09	3:42	4:12	4:52	3:55	4:29	5:11	5:42	7:40	8:04	6:57	7:21	3:10	3:42	7/28
SAT.	4:09	4:41	5:13	5:48	4:53	5:25	6:13	6:37	8:39	9:00	7:56	8:16	4:06	4:38	7/29
SUN.	5:09	5:35	6:11	6:36	5:52	6:20	7:06	7:25	9:33	9:50	8:49	9:07	5:00	5:29	7/30
MON.	6:02	6:24	6:59	7:24	6:47	7:08	7:53	8:07	10:22	10:38	9:39	9:55	5:50	6:15	7/31
TUE.	6:51	7:08	7:46	8:05	7:35	7:51	8:34	8:45	11:05	11:18	10:24	10:37	6:37	6:59	8/1
WED.	7:35	7:47	8:26	8:44	8:20	8:32	9:14	9:22	11:47	11:56	11:03	11:16	7:22	7:41	8/2
THUR.	8:15	8:25	9:04	9:20	8:59	9:08	9:49	9:58	—	12:19	11:42	11:54	8:05	8:23	8/3

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/5	5:30	8:39
7/10	5:33	8:37
7/15	5:37	8:34
7/20	5:41	8:31
7/25	5:46	8:26
7/30	5:51	8:21

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/5	7/13	7/20	7/26

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	11:55	**6:00**	—	**6:20**
Fri.	12:10	**6:45**	12:35	**7:05**
Sat.	12:55	**7:25**	1:20	**7:50**
Sun.	1:35	**8:10**	2:05	**8:35**
Mon.	2:20	**8:45**	2:50	**9:20**
Tues.	2:55	**9:40**	3:35	**10:00**
Wed.	3:50	**10:20**	4:15	**10:45**
Thurs.	4:30	**11:15**	5:00	**11:35**

Surf Side with John Fritz

AUGUST PROSPECTS

As the fishing season slowly advances into the dog days of August, surfcasters find themselves in what is commonly known as the summer doldrums. Whereas boat fishermen can venture offshore to seek local game fish lurking in the cooler depths , or exotic summer visitors, the beach-bound angler must use his knowledge and guile to find fish along the water's edge. Without a doubt the most plentiful fish encountered along the shore line at this time will be snappers. While most surfmen choose to ignore these juvenile bluefish, there is a small group of anglers who zealously seek a supply of snappers. Although many people extol the virtues of snapper as table fare, the purpose behind these surfmen's endeavor is primarily to provide a supply of fresh bait. This bait is used to catch fluke or weakfish and on occasion, jumbo blues which readily dine on their smaller kin. Fresh bait is always better than thawed-out goods; therefore, a location should be found where the game fish lurk in close proximity to a suitable supply of snappers. The snapper, once caught, can be kept in a pail of water for a short while and used alive, or after they have expired, used as cut bait.

In this method of fishing, the fish finder rig is generally employed, with the live bait being hooked through the back to the rear of the dorsal fin. If your supply of bait died, don't throw it away for it can still be fished whole or doctored up with a little surgery. One method of altering the snapper is to cut off the head and tail with a pair of scissors. Then insert the point of the scissors into the body cavity and cut out most of the backbone. This can be easily accomplished after the head has been removed by snipping along the spine until the bone will pull free. This latter method is often used when fluke or weakfish are finicky about taking an offering. Naturally, there is an upper limit on the size snapper one should use if you are fishing the whole bait. This can be roughly four inches depending on the size of the game fish.

The above method is used with good success this month in the waters of Fire Island Inlet. The back-side of Robert Moses State Park, Democrat Point or on the opposite side from the Sore Thumb are the better fishing areas at this time.

As for the snappers larger cousins, the bluefish, they can inundate any area of the Island at any time if such is their inclination. Usually medium-sized blues can be found around the dawn and dusk periods occupying the waters in the vicinity of the inlets. The Jones Inlet breakwater, Democrat Point, Shinnecock's east jetty, Montauk's North Bar and the Nissequogue River Bar are a few scattered locations where bluefish habitually take up residence for some period during August. In order to ascertain the exact location and their time of arrival, a little effort is required on your part, but outgoing water often is the better tide in any inlet area. Their location probably will be the same rip or bar that produces the fish during other times of the year.

Now that we have narrowed it down to where, and on what tide at either dawn or dusk, the rest is easy, but don't be surprised if they hit the beach at noon on the reverse tide. That's fishing and "that is" especially bluefishing.

An assortment of flashy tins and bright colored poppers will be your basic items to use with maybe a Rebel or RedFin if they want a swimming plug in the half-light hours. Don't forget to take along a few darters if you intend to fish the outgoing tide at North Bar after dark.

Larger bluefish generally are not as cooperative until the cooler weather of September turns them on to hitting plugs. One method used in the past to land good-sized blues is to fish bottom with bunker, mackerel chunks, or eels. During the hours of darkness, Gilgo, Robert Moses, Crabmeadow, Mt. Sinai, and the North Fork beaches have produced.

The fish finder rig with a large cork is the standard terminal gear. On many occasions, these savage blues will nibble at the bait with a finesse expected from an early season flounder. Restraint in setting the hook is required until you are sure he has swallowed the bait and is moving away with it. Now come back hard and enjoy yourself, for once he feels the hard steel, all finesse is gone and he becomes the savage no-quarter fighter that he is known to be.

So far in this article little has been mentioned of striped bass. No, they have not departed our waters for more suitable areas further north, but now more than any other time of the year, bass fishing becomes a nighttime proposition. In fact, you have two choices as to the method used to seek them: using medium tackle plugging or using heavier sticks fishing bottom on the outside surf.

The first method is to stalk the quiet waters of the inlets and channels of the back-side waters. Try to find areas where the bait fish congregate on specific phases of the tide, or at what tidal stage the water rushing over a bar will cause a rip to form. After several trips to one area, an itinerary can be conceived which will allow you to move from place to place at the time deemed the most advantageous.

Often these fish are picky, so a wide assortment of lures is necessary. Floating Rebels and RedFins in assorted sizes and color schemes are the most productive plugs, but a few of the sinking models should be carried. Bucktails, Whip Tails and rubber eels or worms can be added to give you variety. Then again, Creek Chub swimmers or Atom Jrs.—some possibly adorned with eel skins—should be included. On nights when the wind is hitting you in the face, a small darter or bottle plug could be the right lure. How big did you say your lure bag was?

What I'm trying to say is, don't stick to one favorite lure if it does not produce. Work an area changing lures frequently and move on to the next location.

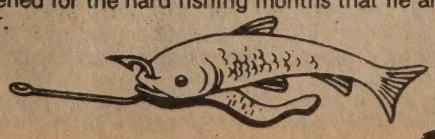
When fishing such quiet, shallow waters emphasis should be placed on your manner of approach. Loud talk, splashing, and indiscriminate shining of lights are best avoided. Cast your lure up-tide at a 45° angle, then let it swing across in front of you as you retrieve slowly—ever so slowly.

The other method by which bass may successfully be caught is by using sand worms on a fish finder rig from the ocean beach. This is a more leisurely manner in which to fish these calm summer nights, but the enjoyment when success is achieved is diminished somewhat by the heavier tackle needed. Two rods, one cast as far as possible, and the other lofted just behind the breaking surf, resting in a sand spike and illuminated by your lantern is a relaxing way to get away from these muggy nights on the mainland. At this time of the year, with the pleasant weather we enjoy, including the family on these nighttime excursions can be a happy experience for everyone.

When fishing either of these two methods, any slack in the bass fishing is often taken up by weakfish which ply the same waters and will strike the same lures.

On the South Shore beaches, live eels used with fish finder rigs after dark will start taking a few bass towards the end of the month. The Jones Beach and Fire Island surf are two areas worth trying. If the bluefish become bothersome, attach a short wire leader and enjoy the action. August is a slow month, so we should be thankful for what we find.

Hard-working surfmen will continue to take fish throughout the summer. The effort involved for the results gained is determined by the angler's idea of a successful trip. Added to the final results should be the understanding that one's skills and techniques are sharpened for the hard fishing months that lie around the corner.



Twist 'N Shout

by Dr. William A. Muller

This phrase, from a Rock and Roll song that was popular several years back, exemplifies the fishing action for blues that can be had for the fishermen who know their tubes! Not gas lines and oil lines—although these are also important—but surgical tubing.

I can't say that I find umbrella rigs to be my favorite cup of tea, but I remain convinced of one thing: they catch fish and plenty of them. I first became acquainted with the cumbersome things back in the 1960s when they appeared as a "secret" weapon among Montauk charter boat skippers. The bass fishing during October and November of those years was sensational and it was close to port; most skippers worked the Shagwong area frequently. But alas, the bass fishing is not what it used to be and although umbrella rigs remain as super important lures for fall bass fishing, anglers usually take one fish at a time, where three and four at a time had not been uncommon a dozen years ago.

One of the leaders in the field of tube lures is Captain John Sekora. For years, Captain John was a Montauk fixture at the controls of his boat, "The Easy Rider." John has found that the demands for his tube lures prohibits him from staying away from the factory in favor of the intimate involvement in chartering that he enjoyed for so long. Captain Sekora is a living legend and so are the tube lures that he makes. These lures which range from single, long-trolling tubes to shorter tubes that are attached to umbrella skeletons are both widely distributed and widely known.

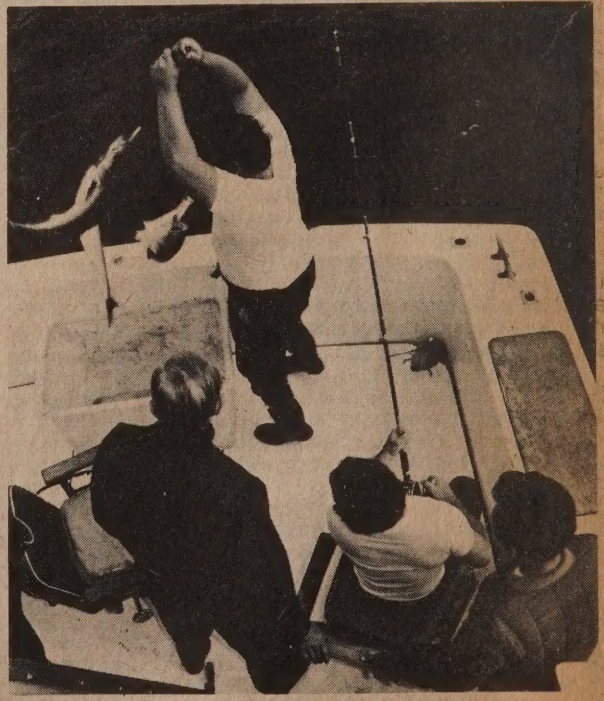
Well, it was a hazy July morning when the crew assembled at the dock. What a crew! Of course, there was myself, decked out in sneakers and a "flap-cap" to keep my bald head from roasting; Fred Guardineer complete with fat cigar; our publisher Rich Reina; my dad William F., who I finally talked into a long overdue trip; Sal Reina, Vinnie Campisi complete with his ear-to-ear grin; Captain Monel, and of course, the mate Bob. Never has more ill-advised casting been offered to the good Captain John for him to unravel the mysteries of his talents.

John Sekora is a soft-spoken, gentle man and despite the fact that he is no longer twenty-one, a large powerful man. He knew where we would fish and instinctively he knew what color tubes would succeed. When our mate, Bob, asked about color selection, Captain John responded sharply with confidence, "Let's use the purple ones, Bob." Sekora's purple tubes are not simply purple tubes. They're two-tone purple with dark inside, and light on the outside. I asked him about that. "How do you get that marvelous two-tone effect?" Captain John smiled and answered quietly. "That's the secret. No, actually it's a special technique that we use in manufacture and it makes a big difference in the catch." I continued to push along with schoolboy questions. "Which colors work best?" John indicated that the answer is not a simple red, black, or white. It depends upon where you're fishing and the season. There are times, he pointed out, when bright yellow is a killer for bass as well as blues. Putting a combination of colors on the rig is also an effective combo. "You've got to feel your way with colors. Put the lures in the water and judge what's happening. Your instinct will guide you to change colors until you've matched what the fish want to eat. Of course, there are times when the fish will eat anything and then color doesn't matter at all; but most of the time you have to experiment a little until you hit the right recipe."

In the final analysis, the captains' experience serves them well and the experimental period is short. The **Easy Rider** made its way towards the Sub Buoy which had been the scene for some outrageous fishing for the few days that preceded our visit. Captain Monel added some important information. "Not only has the quantity of fish been impressive, but the quality is outstanding. These are real alligators and you fellas are going to have your arms full!"

Captain Monel was right. We let out our lines before we were at the structure near the buoy in order that the lures would be working well by the time we made our first pass. The blues were a lot more eager than anyone had imagined and they attacked the tubes on the drop-back, both before the lures began to "twist" and before we were near the bottom structure. We hadn't travelled more than a few hundred feet before both rods bent heavily to big blues. We didn't realize it at the time, but each umbrella rig was nearly filled with bluefish. The fishermen took their positions in the chairs and began pumping the fish as the alligators below pulled back with at times equal, and at other times greater force than the fishermen could muster with their tackle. This isn't a bedroom scene from a class "Z" novel, so don't misunderstand me, but after a few minutes in the chairs, there was an awful lot of heavy breathing going on in that cockpit!

"Twist and Shout"—the tube lures twist and the fishermen shout for joy. On that hot, still, and humid July day we filled the fish box with huge choppers faster than our arms could stand the strain. One might imagine from these high praises that fishing was great that day. Well, it wasn't! Our success hinged on a combination of the combined substantial knowledge of Captains Sekora and Monel, Sekora's fabulous tubes, and happening to be in



When the fishing is hot and heavy, nobody worries about gaffs. Here the mate shows how it's done: grab the hub of the umbrella rig with one hand, grab the leader attached to the fish that surfaces first and lift smartly. *Voia!*

the right place at the right time. We did try diamond jigging, but it wasn't fruitful simply because the fish were not concentrated. They were well dispersed as the recorder clearly demonstrated and only by dragging around our own school of bait (umbrella rigs) could we take our share.

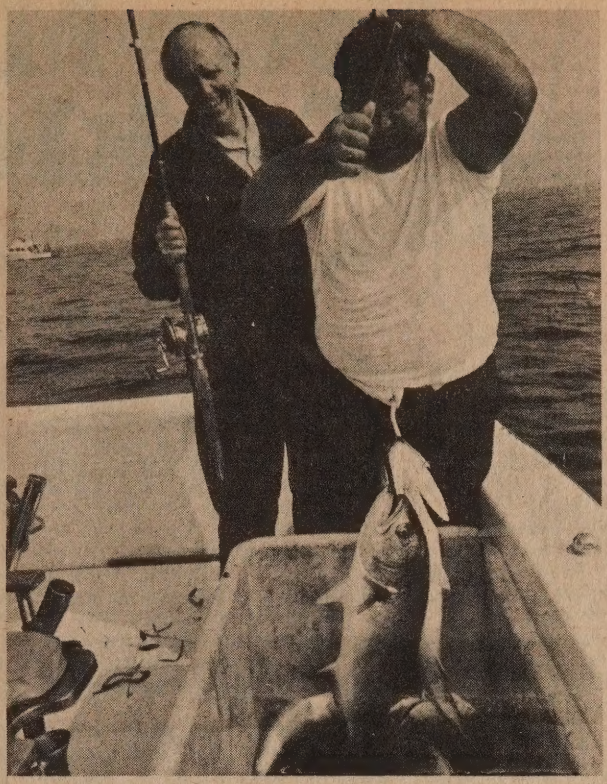
There is no doubt that umbrellas are troublesome. They take up a lot of room on a small boat, they tangle so-o-o-o easily, and are difficult to let out and retrieve with the wire line that is essential for this fishing; but the skills and knowledge of the multiple tube troller should not be overlooked since it offers many advantages to fishermen. Umbrellas can literally change things around 180 degrees. Maybe we should make an effort to make some room for them somewhere on our boats. Maybe we do prefer the excitement of a big fish coming up on a surface plug, or the more subtle feel of a working diamond jig. But a surface plug won't work when the fish are sitting on the bottom twenty or thirty feet below, and diamond jigs take a back seat when game fish are spread thin. If we turn to wire and umbrella rigs, we can still catch fish.

Although professional skippers have the space to store a variety of tackle in a ready-to-go condition, the small boat operator finds that space is at a premium. Here are some tips from Captain Sekora on how you might have your cake and eat it too. First, you need not have different rods on board for jigging and trolling. A middle-of-the-road approach to stiffness will give you a rod that's good for both. Keep a reel, or at the very least a spool, in your tackle box wound with wire line. Thus, you can slip off one reel or spool and attach the other right on the water. Although you can purchase umbrella rigs already made up, it might be wiser to buy and store the components separately. Sekora's tubes are sold pre-rigged with monofilament leaders and black barrel swivels. A fisherman can store them one to a plastic bag and stack them in the tackle box. About one dozen tubes of assorted colors should do the trick in a pinch. The wire skeleton of the umbrella rig can be stored almost anywhere on board: in the cabin, in the center console, under a seat, or along the gunwale. Where you store it will be limited by your imagination and convenience. Always carry a sportsman's pliers with you to facilitate the attachment of the lures, cutting heavy monofilament, and bending twisted hooks.

Test the action of the umbrella rig tubes in the water next to the boat before allowing it to slip back into the briny. The tubes should spin smartly but without frantic flip-flopping. Adjust the speed of the boat until the tubes spin correctly. Make sure that none of the tubes are tangled. This is best accomplished when the rig is placed in the water. Hold it up straight so that the tubes hang free—downward. Gently swing the rig so that the tube swings towards the stern and at the same time, lower the skeleton into the water. The tubes and skeleton should hit the water gently at the same time. Hold the rod tip near or in the water so that the rig remains completely submerged and check for tangles. Even the most experienced miss at times and if you do, retrieve the rig, remove the tangles, and repeat the process. You should not throw or drop the rig into the water from a distance of several feet above the surface. Gently swing and slip the umbrella into the sea.

Keep your thumb on the spool of wire as you drop back so that the wire will not kink and so that the umbrella will not fall too fast towards the bottom, because this is a prime reason for tangles on the drop-back. You can figure that you need about 100 feet of wire for every ten feet of depth at which you wish your lure to work. In most cases, 300 feet of wire is sufficient and should be backed up by a fairly heavy test monofilament. It is best to mark the wire every fifty feet; each marker should be a different color so that you always know how deep you're fishing and can always return the lure to the feeding depth of the fish quickly and accurately.

Twist and shout? You bet, and umbrella rigs work almost everywhere. Somebody once suggested to me that umbrella rigs would be great for giant tuna. The tubes would have to be real big I was told. Hey, this guy was nuts! Can you imagine trying to whip two or three giant tuna simultaneously. I have enough trouble with three, twelve-pound blues!



William F. Muller, the author's dad, watches to make sure that all the bluefish go in the pot.

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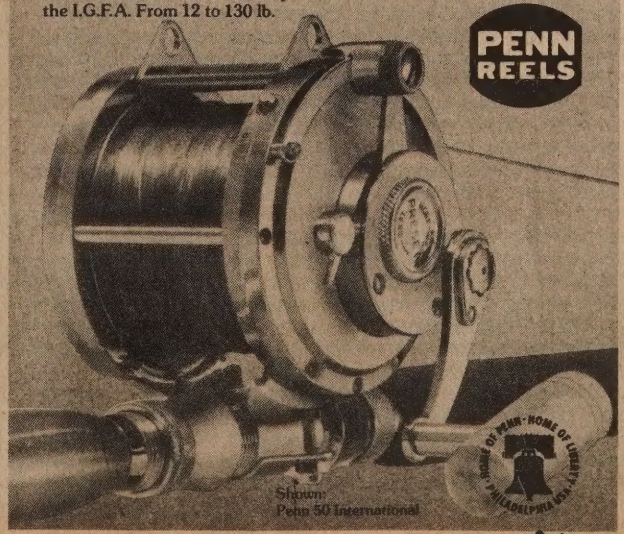

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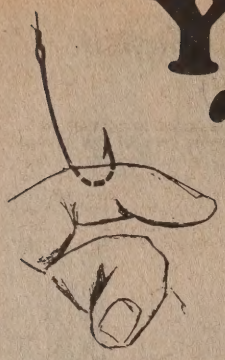


Your Medical Tackle Box

by Doctor Einar F. Grell

★PART ONE★

If you are like most anglers, the first thing you do before you go fishing is to pack your tackle box and then your lunch. Hopefully, you will catch some fish; oftentimes they will catch you. Sometimes the weapons of destruction placed in your tackle box will catch you before you catch your finny friends. Perhaps the marine environment consisting of sun and waves will wreak havoc on your body; other times, the technical aspects of your boat will inflict injury on your precious anatomy. What am I driving at? There are many hazards involved in fishing which all anglers should be aware of. Many of these hazards can be prevented; others occur, unfortunately. When they do occur, what do you do about them? Prevention is the ideal; preparedness is the reality. What you do to prevent injury and how prepared you are to treat injury should be your prime concern before you leave the dock.

Everyone today knows how hard it is to get a doctor to make a "house call." Have you ever tried to get a doctor to make a "boat call?" If you have tried the latter, you will know by now that you would have had better luck calling a Martian spaceship or looking for "encounters of the fourth kind" (receiving medical attention from a Martian medical doctor). My point: you should be prepared in basic first aid and should have aboard your boat some basic "first aid" equipment for injuries you may incur from time to time in pursuing earthling finny creatures. Since God helps those who help themselves, it is imperative that you realize at the outset that FIRST AID means just that: you or your friend must be FIRST with the AID.

For examples: Weakfish Walter has just cast, or thought that he had cast his Salty Dog into the water when, lo and behold, the Salty Dog lure suddenly appeared embedded in his ear. What do you do? Messy Freddy while chumming for sharks has just stepped on his gaff and now has a puncture wound in the sole of his foot since the gaff point has pierced his fishing boots. Jerky Joe has just landed a sting ray and while subduing this flat-headed, innocent creature which is flopping on the deck, manages to step on the base of the sting ray's tail. He is now howling with pain. While this is taking place, two fair skinned anglers are now lobster red from over-exposure to the sun and are now doing the "hustle" with their chills as their reddened skin turns to little blisters. The "hunker and chunker" for the expedition has just filleted a small piece of his hand. Two innocent jiggers inform the captain that their hands and arms are burning and itching as a result of taking something off their fouled hook which looks like a jellyfish. Everyone is looking for help, but the mate who took his Dramamine tablets after the boat got under way, is now green from the reverse peristalsis and internal chumming that his gut cavity has been experiencing for the past hour through vomiting. Matter of fact, each of the mate's eyes are registering three plums. To climax this ridiculous situation, the captain's daughter has just had one of her toes chomped by an unhooked bluefish which is jumping around on the deck. She was wearing open-toed sandals.

I could go on and on with injurious situations that occur every day aboard private fishing and charter boats. Many of these incidents can be prevented. Others must be remedied and treated at the time of occurrence. Are you ready for the expected and the unexpected? Do you know what to do? If you are not prepared...READ ON. What follows will at least keep you alive until you reach a doctor or the emergency room of the nearest hospital. Most of the time you won't need a doctor if you know what to do. Remember: doctors don't make boat calls. Being prepared must be your modus operandi. What I am suggesting is that you make up a medical tackle box with the ingredients listed. Learn how to use the ingredients and keep it handy.

Tetanus Shot Status: Before beginning with simple first aid, I highly recommend that all anglers have up-to-date tetanus shots. Having experienced many hook impalements and gill rachis abrasions from denizens of the deep who thrive on thrashing around in septic chum slicks loaded with all kinds of infectious bacteria, I would make sure your tetanus shot status is current. This should be given first priority before any serious angling is begun.

Sunburn Prevention: Since the reflection of the sun's burning rays off the water even on a cloudy day is tremendous, it cannot be over-emphasized to fishermen that the number one human tissue destroyer and fishing expedition "killer" is sunburn. First degree burns are those characterized by a reddening of the skin, followed by second degree burns which involve blisters. Third degree burns are those which involve a charring of the skin, tissue disintegration and permanent scarring. Burning of the skin in any form has a direct relationship to skin cancer. Yet, time and again, both dark-skinned and fair-skinned individuals expose their noses, lips, and necks to the strong rays of the sun between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM with no thought of placing sunburn preventative preparations of zinc oxide on the areas exposed. Many forget the fact that it takes from four to seven hours after sun exposure to receive the full impact of what really took place on your skin while you were bailing bluefish at high noon. If you look like a lobster after two hours sun exposure, you can imagine what you will feel like the same evening as your body burns up with chills.

The best treatment for severe sunburn is still the application of ice cold milk compresses to the burn area over a period of several hours. Milk and chipped ice are placed in a bowl and this preparation is applied to compresses which, in turn, are applied to the burn site. This preparation works and is highly recommended over that treatment which involves spraying the burn area with pain killers such as benzocaine. This latter spray treatment is short lived and minimally effective. If the milk treatment does not work and pain persists over the next twenty-four hours, a doctor should be consulted.

So, to eliminate burning and several hours soaking with cold milk compresses, what should you do? The answer is simple. Wear long-sleeved shirts, keep your legs covered, and apply to exposed areas (back of neck, etc.) sun screens such as PreSun which consist of five percent PABA (para amino benzoic acid, fifty-five percent alcohol, water, and glycerin). For super sensitive areas such as the nose, ears and lips, apply zinc oxide paste. If you do not like zinc oxide on your lips or feel that your fishing friends or your girl friend won't kiss you because you look "creepy" with all that white goop on your lips, then I recommend that you purchase a small lipstick dispenser of Lip Guard (medicated lip balm) which when applied to lips prevents burning, chapping, and drying out. Again, you have choices to make. With no preventative measures, you will look like a survivor of the "towering inferno."

Glasses and Visored Cap...Incidental Prime Essentials.

Unless you want to end up your fishing career with a guide dog and night blindness, it is essential that you wear polarizing sunglasses. It is amazing how many fishermen cannot see at night after fishing all day without sunglasses; I personally cannot see during the day without them. I wouldn't for a minute go fishing on a bright, sunny day without any. With my sunglasses, I also wear a long-visored cap which also helps to reduce glare. Glasses and cap are essentials to my first aid and prime comfort.

Also remember that whatever you put on your skin for prevention (PreSun, zinc oxide paste, Johnson's Baby Oil, etc.) will also prevent you from catching fish. Make sure when using these preventative chemicals that you keep them off your fishing lines, lures and bait. Your finny friends want no part of these concoctions. After all, don't the labels **read** FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY. Do you think fish are that **dumb**?

Motion Sickness or Seasickness.

Your sense of equilibrium or sense of balance is located in the inner ear. The ramifications of this problem affect the brain, stomach and throat in amazing ways, the most outstanding of which is the tendency of one's stomach to gain access to the outside of the body via violent, involuntary, spasmodic disgorging forces. The common name of this phenomena is vomiting. If you have this problem, which is also associated with nausea, you have a decision to make. TO FISH IN A BOAT OR NOT TO FISH IN A BOAT. Since most fishermen are both sadists and masochists, you have already decided...TO FISH! Since the U. S. Navy has spent millions of dollars on and in motion sickness research with minimum success, we shall proceed with the best preventative measures available—meager as they might be.

If you suffer from this enigma, you must take a drug such as Dramamine or Merazine an hour or so before you leave the dock. To take this drug at the onset of seasickness is worthless. You must allow a little time for this drug to work on your system. If the drug doesn't work, you have my blessings. What you will go through with drug failure is best described by my friend, "Vomiting Vic" in motion sickness agony, by the following words: "If I only could die." He is a masochist, for in spite of repeated seasickness, he continues to fish.

There are degrees of intelligence found in those who continue to fish in spite of their infirmity. Lessons can be learned from these unfortunates. I shall list a few positive suggestions for minimizing the "death wish." If you have a cold or feel a little under the weather before shipping out, don't mix Dramamine or Merazine with the high seas. You won't feel better. If you are recovering from a hangover and expect seasick pills to eliminate both motion sickness and the hangover—forget it. You are doomed and a marked man. If you feel lousy at dockside, what will you feel like offshore in a pitching, yawing and rolling twenty-eight foot Bertrand? Better?

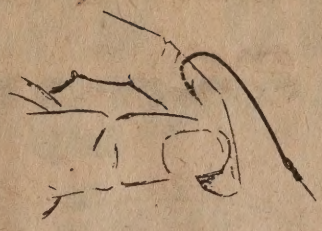
Eat bland foods before sailing, or if you have a touchy and sensitive stomach "cool it" on the food intake before leaving the dock. If you must eat something while fishing, eat a little piece of plain bread or a small piece of pretzel. Stay away from the spicy and sour foods. Do not mix orange or grapefruit juice with eggs and sausage. By all means, do not eat breakfast at 6:30 a.m., drink Scotch or a Vodka Tonic at 6:55 a.m., and then take your Dramamine as the boat leaves at 7 AM. My last charter witnessed three characters who adhered to the preceding game plan. Needless to say, they were sick all day, never touched a fishing rod and vomited all over the boat with their internal machinations. You call this fun? In addition, vomiting violently at frequent intervals is really bad for one's internal anatomy. Blood vessels in the throat and stomach have been known to rupture.

Hook Removal.

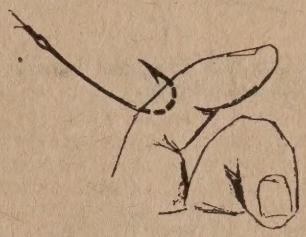
Depending upon whether you impale your hooks into tight skin (hands, feet, scalp, etc.) or loose skin (arms, ears, fat belly, buttocks, etc.) will generally determine the method of hook removal. **The basic rule of thumb for hook removal** is this: if you have a hook in you or your buddy and cannot free it from your tissue after gentle manipulation, "bite the bullet" and push it through or have your friend push it through. If you are masochistic, you will push it through yourself. If you are quite brave, you will allow your friend to push it through. If you are a complete chicken, you will leave the hook in your body, abort or terminate your fishing trip, and head for the nearest emergency room. Whether you push it through or manage to gently back the hook out will cause you to feel pain. You will now know how a fish feels. The Standard Method for Hook Removal is the best procedure for hooks impaled in loose, fleshy skin.

For hooks impaled in tight skin areas, such as the scalp and hands, there is another method for hook removal known as the **Pull Back** or **Snatch Method**. The major problem with the pull back method is that the method must be undertaken correctly; i.e., the hook must be snatched or pulled back via the same wound track route of entry. If incorrectly done and the wound track route not followed, your helping buddy will be murdering you with pain. You will undoubtedly kill him when you finally get the hook out. Whatever method employed, I am sure that you will be very careful in the future when you cast, unhook fish from terminal tackle, or play around in your

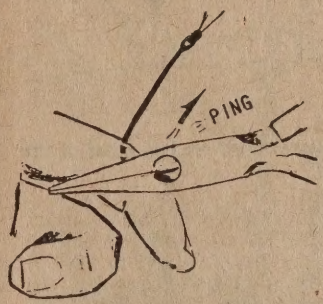
HOOK REMOVAL—*Snatch*



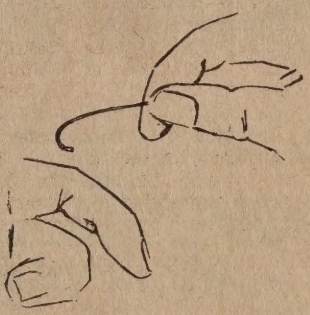
A hook buried in a finger, or in any other part of the human frame, is no pleasure. It will hurt like hell and it will have to be removed. If there are no doctors around, you may have to do the job yourself. The push-through method is time-honored.



A gritting of teeth may help, and there'll be some pain, but who asked you to stick a hook in your finger in the first place? Just push the point on through in a natural curve until the barb emerges. Once this is done, the worst is really over.

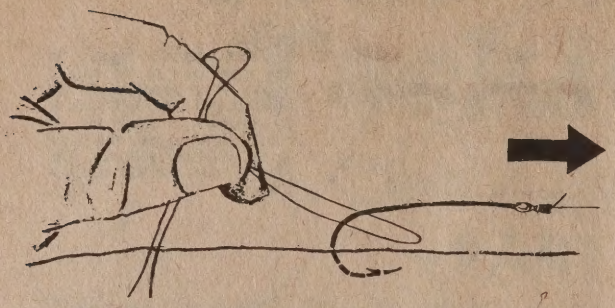


Now it's all downhill. With cutting pliers, snip the barb off. You did have cutting pliers in your kit, of course! How else could you make leaders and repair tackle! Pliers are tools for all sorts of things, although we hate to use them in this way.

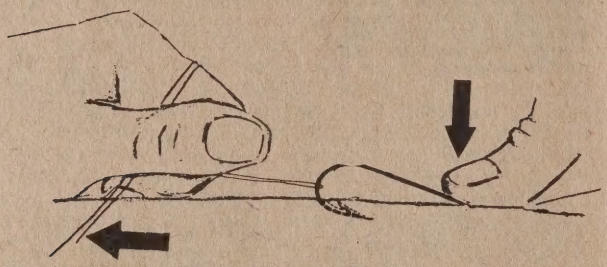


Now there's nothing to it: simply slide the barbless hook shank back through the wound. You'll bleed a little. You may do a mite of cussing. But, if you keep the wound clean, and if your tetanus shots are up-to-date, you'll survive.

HOOK REMOVAL—*Standard*



Loop 20 or 30 lb. test line around the curve of the hook and get a good grip.



With thumb of other hand, press hard on the head of the hook for direct pull.

Try to guide barb back along the pathway of entrance. Quick! Snatch it out!

tackle box in the dark.

Of prime importance before you decide to pull hook out or push hook through, is that **you determine** whether you are hooked **deeply** or **shallow**. If hook is shallow, you should have no trouble with hook removal. If **deep hooked**, there is always the danger that the hook has pierced a blood vessel, nerve, muscle or tendon. If you feel that the hook is **too deep**, a **physician should be consulted** as soon as possible. You can still snip the lure and exposed shank of the embedded hook off. Your physician will surgically remove the embedded barb.

Whether you leave the barb in or remove the hook yourself, make sure that the wound is washed gently with Phisoderm after the wound has bled freely for a couple of minutes. After washing with Phisoderm, clean puncture wound with alcohol, apply a little bacitracin antibiotic ointment and then cover with a BandAid or a small bandage which is taped. With all this hook impalement business, I think all readers can appreciate having their tetanus shots kept up-to-date.

Finning.

Remember, fishhook wounds are puncture wounds and are treated the same as gaff wounds, spine wounds and fin wounds from such fish as sea robins, blackfish, stripers, cunner (bergalls), dogfish and a variety of rays which inhabit our waters. Puncture wounds can also be inflicted by fluke and bluefish who bite fiercely. Fins of fish, however, produce excellent puncture wounds and have a high frequency of occurrence over that of fish bites. Treatment for puncture wounds: wash with Phisoderm, wash with alcohol; put on bacitracin antibiotic ointment and cover with a bandage or BandAid. Often the puncture is also accompanied by a slash which must be butterflied with the BandAids listed in the medical tackle box.

Puncture wounds inflicted by rays deserve special treatment since a nerve poison has been injected into the victim. It is imperative when this has occurred, that the foot or the hand of the victim (whatever has been punctured by ray) be immersed in extremely hot water (hot as the victim can stand) for about forty-five minutes. This hot water immersion apparently denatures most of the toxin that is produced by the ray. Paralysis is eliminated. Similar treatment is recommended for bites and finning by angler fish, midshipmen fish, and spiny dogfish, where the victim is very sensitive to bites and stings.

Preventative measures for avoiding ray stings involves watching where you jump off your boat, or where you place your feet when you are digging for clams or walking in shallow water. Shuffling along with your legs when you are clamming in the flats as contrasted to "Goose-stepping" around, eliminates ray stings and warns rays that you are approaching. They are very shy and will spook easily when they see your shuffling feet. When catching rays from either beach or boat, the angler must be very careful in the catching process. He should not allow the base of the tail area to thrash around and lacerate his feet or hands. Remember, rays in particular can cause paralysis.

Jellyfish Bites and Prevention.

Many anglers from time to time in their fishing pursuits, come in contact with jellyfish that sting. In waters off Long Island, we have the poisonous Lion's Manes, which are quite common in such areas as the Great South Bay and in Long Island Sound. Occasionally, anglers in southern waters come in contact with Portuguese man-of-wars. Regardless of the species, when you are stung by the actual animal or parts of the gelatinous creature, you will soon know about it. The outstanding symptoms of the stinging is the blistering and the burning sensations. A rash, intense itching and pain often accompany the contact. You can pick up this condition by simply removing a fish from a net, walking on the beach, or by walking on the deck of your boat which has been exposed to these creatures. People walking along the wash zone of a beach can also get stung by jellyfish without ever going into the water. Dead jellyfish tentacles can also inflict tremendous sting.

Curative treatment of the problem involves applying alcohol-soaked pads to the stricken area. This procedure fixes the stinging cysts in your body. A small amount of Adolph's Instant Meat Tenderizer (unseasoned) can be mixed with alcohol in a little bottle or in the palm of your hand to produce a paste which is applied to the wound site. Meat tenderizers, especially Adolph's brand is loaded with a proteolytic enzyme (papain) which attacks and destroys the poison of the stinging tentacles. The meat tenderizer paste is left on the wound site from four to six hours. It is amazing how much relief the Adolph Meat Tenderizer paste method provides in contrast to the method which involves alcohol, benadryl, and sodium bicarbonate. This latter treatment never gets rid of the itching which will drive you nuts. After eight hours contact with Adolph's Meat Tenderizer, the jellyfish wounds are treated like a sunburn.

If you have been stung by jellyfish, that for one reason or another have been spilled into your boat from a fish net, it is imperative that you make up a solution of meat tenderizer in a gallon of water and wash the infected area, otherwise you will still have the source of your wounds around. Adolph's Meat Tenderizer now comes in convenient three-and-a-half ounce salt shaker plastic containers which makes for great ease in dispersal. A gallon of water mized with the contents of one three-and-a-half ounce Adolph's meat tenderizer packet, the mixture of which is applied to the polluted area, will eliminate all potential "hot foot" areas. What you don't use for jellyfish wounds, you can also employ for your tough steaks.

SHEEPSHEAD BLUES
Part One—*ARTIFICIALS*

by Bruce Sucher

Last year was a good one for bluefish; especially for those anglers who put in their time on the party boats that sail from Sheepshead Bay. The fish arrived fairly late, making their first appearance at the Barnegat Ridge in late June. They moved north and eastward chasing large schools of bait fish. Unlike years past, the blues never did settle in a particular area. One day it would be the Klondike Grounds, and the next might find the fish off Sea Bright. Then a week would pass and schools would show at the Monster Ledge or the HA Buoy. The fish followed no known timetable or itinerary. For the majority of the private boat fishermen, this meant feast or famine. If they were lucky they'd run into fish; if not, it meant large fuel bills and empty fish boxes. Sophisticated electronics became essential for consistent catches: VHF and CB radios; scopes, scanners and graph recorders became an integral part of the game, and of course, a good quality Loran C helped. But even these were of limited use if a boat had to search the hundreds of square miles of ocean alone.

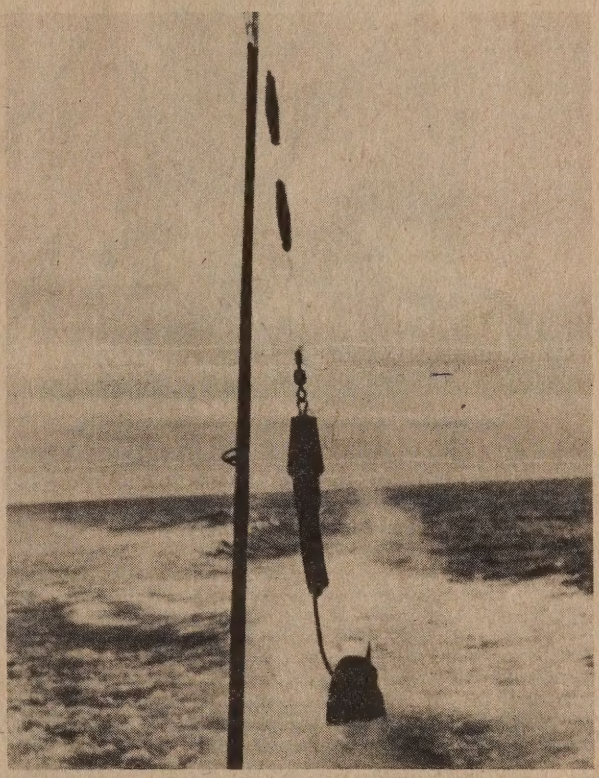
If you want the word "competition" defined, just drive or walk along Brooklyn's Emmons Avenue between Pier 1 and Pier 9 at a quarter to six on a summer's morning. Mates and Captains alike yell, gesture, in fact, do anything short of throwing their bodies in front of moving cars to persuade potential customers to fish aboard the boat. The bluefish boats in particular must meet incredible costs. These are the newest, fastest and best-equipped of the fleet. These "Super Cruisers" cost somewhere between $300-$900 thousand. To break even, they need carry between eighteen and thirty-five customers at $18 a pop. Now you can understand what they're yelling about.

But as soon as these landbound rivals leave the pier, they become members of a tightly knit brotherhood. If the blues are playing hard to find, they spread out and search. It became known as seek-and-destroy, because it resembled a fleet of Naval vessels out to nail a wolfpack of elusive U-boats. As soon as the fish are found by one, the other boats are called in to get their share.

And don't think you can listen in on your VHF and get a fix on their whereabouts. The fleet of professional charter and party boat captains have a language all their own. "Yeah Moon, we're into 'em good about seven miles south of where we found 'em last Wednesday." Even a helicopter would have a hard time finding the fleet with that kind of information. This seagoing intelligence network offers the party boat angler his best chances for consistently scoring.

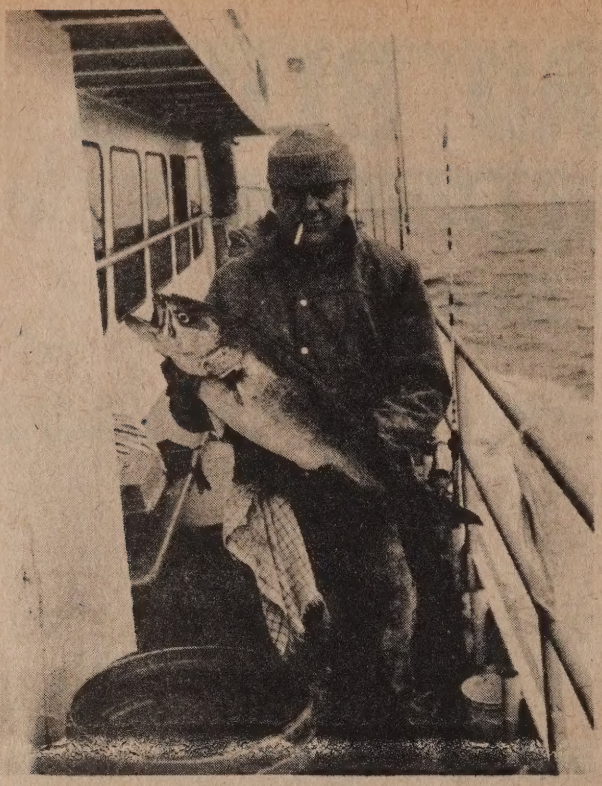
Because these schools of blues were constantly on the move, the standard methods of chumming and bait fishing were, for the most part, ineffective. (There were days when it worked and night fishing is almost strictly a bait proposition, but I'll deal with that aspect of the sport in the second half of this article.)

Last year was the year of the artificial. Bluefish were suckers for the properly worked jig or Banana from June through October and into early November. And it was fast fishing. Eyes scanned the water for signs of surface feeding fish and at the same time, concentrated on the graph recorder for markings. The Captain would put the boat on fish, you'd get a shot at them—sometimes for only a few minutes, and then it was time to move on. The



A true *"Bozo"* rig. Split shot, broken banana and bunker back. This angler should take up gold or seek some professional help.

A nice catch of 8 to 12-pound fish. Bob got carried away when he tried to kiss one.



A late season jumbo that hit an A-27 diamond jig.

competent, well-equipped angler scored heavily. The average fisherman and even the tyro did well if they could adapt themselves to the fast pace of this fishing.

Probably the easiest part of becoming a good bluefisherman is being properly equipped. The rod, reel, line and lure as a unit is a tool which when used properly will make the sport more enjoyable and productive. The rod should be of medium weight and about seven feet long. I like it to have both flexibility and backbone. Light enough so the tip will give the lure some action, but heavy enough to lift a ten pound blue over the rail. The seven-foot length makes underhand casting easier and that long toss can put your lure beyond your neighbor's, making it that much more attractive.

The reel used by the majority of Sheepshead Bay sharpshooters is the Penn 500M Jig Master. It offers a fast retrieve, good casting, lightweight, and spools can be changed in seconds. The aluminum spool is best, but it is a lot more expensive than the standard chrome over brass one. I like to have a couple of extras filled with different test line so the savings or cost can be substantial. Stay away from plastic spools if you intend to bluefish with them. The pressure of stretched mono can be fantastic and I've seen more than one plastic spool shatter at the worst possible time.

But the Jig Master is not perfect. The drags occasionally jam, gears strip and if the angler is not careful, the side plate that is removed by the turn of a screw can loosen and disappear into the briny. Someone finally got through to Penn and they've redesigned the reel. On paper the new Jig Master seems ideal, but I'll reserve judgement until I've put it through a season of hard fishing. Another new reel is the Kencor 830 MH with needle bearings. It looks and feels good, but only time will tell if it can make the grade. The Penn 3/0 red (112H) would be my second choice for a fast retrieve bluefish reel. It is expensive, heavy in weight and with the standard metal spool, hard to cast. Aluminum spools are available and equipped with one, the reel is considered by some to be tops.

Before I go any further, let me say something about spinning reels. So as not to offend readers or manufacturers, I will tone down my criticism. They serve a very definite function in fishing, but it is not aboard a bluefish boat. The only advantage these reels have over conventional tackle is that for the inexperienced they are easy to cast. If you can't learn how to cast underhand with a revolving spool reel, then just drop the jig or Banana straight down. But please leave that spinning reel home.

I would rather bluefish with the proper monofilament wrapped around a beer can than with a reel loaded with the wrong line. I use nothing but pink Ande mono in twenty, thirty and forty pound test. I once heard the Japanese ran field tests with a variety of fishes to see which color is the least visible underwater. Pink was what they came up with; so from then on all their gill nets were made of pink material and their catches improved. It's also interesting to note that thirty feet underwater, the color red is eliminated from the spectrum. That's for the human eye in natural light, but somehow the two are connected. Blue, green, or clear monofilament is almost as good.

I frequently notice that either too much or not enough line is on the spools of some fishermen. Too much line means easy backlashes, line caught and nicked between spool edge and reel frame and sometimes if not properly distributed on the spool, the line bunches up in the middle and jams against a crossbar. This usually happens in the midst of battle. The angler looks wildly to the mate, "My reel won't turn," and while the mate tries to correct the bulge which is impossibly jammed, the angler begins hand-lining the fish. When I think about it now, it's pretty funny.

Too little line can be even worse. What's the sense of having a high speed reel if the spool is only one-third full? No sense at all. With every turn of the handle of a properly filled Jig Master, you'll get about twenty-eight inches of line. The less line on the spool, the smaller its diameter, so the shorter the length of line recovered with each turn of the handle, the slower the jig will move. I hope you understand what I'm talking about. A properly filled reel should have line equally distributed to within one-half inch of the spool's edge.

If I had to go with one spool of line, it would be thirty pound test. I carry two more: one with twenty for when the blues are thinned out and wary, and the other with forty. When the fish are wild, either surface feeding or tightly schooled, I switch to the forty and dig in. At times like these, the blues are not line shy and it doesn't matter that the lure loses a bit of action.

After every fish or hit, check your line from the clinch knot to about ten feet back. The lighter the line you use, the more crucial this operation becomes. Sometimes you might feel a "bump" from someone else's fish or a rubbing as your blue dives under the boat. Check that line and if there are any nicks or frays, then cut it back to the good stuff. If you don't want to carry extra spools, then at least bring along some spare line.

After about five trips (it depends on how many fish I've caught) I strip off the first hundred yards of line and blood knot on a fresh length. There's no sense in changing the remaining line, as it is still good. I do that once a year out of habit as eventually the monofilament becomes kinked and distorted with all the pressure from the line on top.

After using artificials, either jigs or Bananas, your line will become twisted. At the end of each day, I troll the first fifty to one hundred yards of line without anything on it from the stern. After ten minutes I reel it in and the line is twist free. Set your drag to about forty percent of your line's breaking strength. Every once in awhile, check it to make sure it hasn't loosened. And after a day's fishing remember to slack it off; the drag washers will last a lot longer and will operate more smoothly.

There is an incredible assortment of artificials available to the bluefisherman. Some are effective and some don't make the grade. Any lure that I recommend in this article can be counted on to produce fish. It not only has to catch fish, but it has to stand up to an incredible amount of toothy abuse.

The A-27 or Ava-27 Diamond Jigs have probably caught more blues than all the others combined. The lure should be used with a single 4/0-7/0 tinned O'Shaughnessy. Hook size depends on the size fish encountered. If

the hook becomes rusted or bent, then replace it. A good deal of this jig's action and appeal depends on that hook.

Cast the lure out and let it hit bottom. As soon as it touches, lock your reel and begin a fast retrieve, turning the handle as fast as you can. If there are any blues around, there's a good chance one will grab it. Frequently the hit occurs within ten feet of the bottom. If that's the case, then don't bring the jig back to the surface. Take ten quick turns and drop it back down. Repeat until you connect. You'll be in the strike zone longer that way and your odds are better.

Sometimes as the jig is descending, it is struck. It feels like a bump, as if you've momentarily touched bottom. Lock the reel and strike; if the fish isn't on, then bring the lure back up and check your line. Sometimes you'll set the hook and a second later, the line parts. That means he swallowed the jig or hit the line end.

If the boat is drifting, it sometimes pays to try a heavier jig. And as the water temperature cools you can try simply bouncing it off the bottom. If the fish are small, you can attach a tube lure about four feet in front of the jig with a dropper loop. Doubles are far from uncommon when these one to two pounders are on top and in a frenzy.

A year or two ago, some wizard created a new artificial. He took a tube lure—the same kind used on umbrella rigs—and placed it on the back of an A-27. It has the good casting qualities of the standard jig and it has enough inherent action to be fished slowly. Let it hit the bottom, then take a few fast turns, then slow your retrieve. The hit usually comes just as you slow down.

The Banana made almost everyone a good lure fisherman. It can be fished effectively by even the beginner because it has a built-in action. Let it hit bottom and begin a slow, steady retrieve. If that doesn't work, then speed it up a little. If the fish are playing hard-to-get, then change speeds in mid-stream and that will almost always prove successful. Sometimes you'll see the people using rental rods really doing a number. Since their reel is probably a Penn 60 or 65, it means that the fish are hitting the slowly worked lure. (That's because the reel has a very slow retrieve rate.) Do likewise and see if it works.

For my money, the original Bingle Banana is still the best available, with the Ava a close second. The best color is green, but sometimes red or white will outproduce the others. The Bingle Lancer can be super good, but they're hard to cast and expensive. And the Bridgeport Vi-Ke in one-and-a-quarter to four ounce size can work the best of all. It's closest to the Sand Eel in size, shape and action, and that's what the bluefish were feeding on. Use the same fast retrieve as you would with the A-27. Oh yeah, and be sure to replace the treble hook that this lure comes with with a single O'Shaughnessy.

The Krocodile lure in large sizes, the Kastmaster, Hopkins No-Eql can all be very effective, but they're quite expensive. Their shape makes them all attractive as they're sinking and you know what that means. That's great for the tackle industry, but not so good for you. And a special note. Only a bozo puts a piece of bunker or smelt on an artificial for bluefish. It's the nautical equivalent of ordering a bottle of Jive 7 wine at a fine French restaurant.

If the boat is chumming, then try and work your lure through the slick. Many times the fish will be picky about taking bait, but will rap the first thing that swims past. If the rest of the boat is fishing bait and not doing well, then move off by yourself (so as not to cross lines as you cast and retrieve) and try a jig or Banana. Sometimes though the opposite will happen. Everyone will be fishing artificials and the first one to use bait will score. But bait fishing is a whole other ballgame with its own rules and regulations. Develop skills in both disciplines and your odds of being successful on a bluefish boat are greatly increased.

Sinker Bouncing: ARE WE REALLY NUTS?

(Continued from page 10.)

fluke after fluke on a miserable, rainy day when some more sensible fishermen stayed close to home. When I told my companions exactly what I'd been doing, they immediately tossed over an anchor, put on small killies, and began to catch fish.

I continued to fish awhile longer, but when the weather showed signs of worsening, I gave the other two nuts the balance of my small killies and took off. I don't know how they finally made out, but they must have sure put a dent in the Buoy 20 fluke population that day.

Are guys like us really nuts? Well ... maybe. But not if you're a true dyed-in-the-wool fisherman. To a guy like that, everything is a means to an end—the end being to get fish in that bucket. Nothing else in the fish world really matters—for "nuts" like us.

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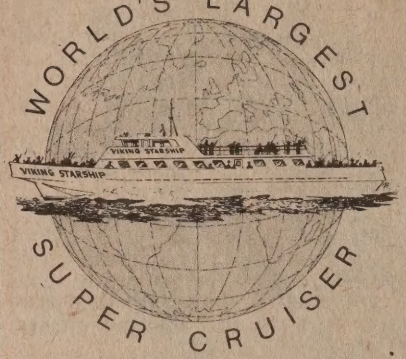

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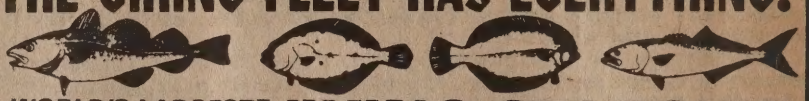

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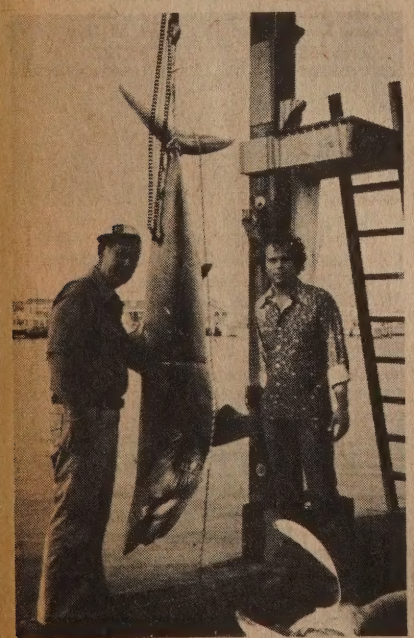
The action this week picked up considerably, particularly offshore. The first marlin are now being taken and quite a few have been baited and lost. Many swordfish being spotted and harpooned, but few taking bait. Mako sharks are plentiful, although not large, but there are numerous blue sharks with many going over 200 lbs. Exotic species like hammerhead sharks and tiger sharks are also in the area and being taken, along with a few duskies. The inshore action is also excellent with weakfish in the spotlight. Bluefish are everywhere and are being taken via all methods both day and night. Striped bass fishing spotty, with some big fish being taken at night on large plugs and during the day by those jigging. Fluke fishing remains good in the North Rips and drifting east of Outer Shagwong on outgoing water. Porgy fishing is phenomenal around Great Eastern and the south side of Montauk, but sea bass remains scarce though large. Codfishing off Coxes Ledge also remains good.

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** has been having some excellent quality offshore fishing lately. On Monday, Fritz Garrecht of East Meadow was aboard with a party and took a 91 lb. white



George Sachs of Huntington (left) and Capt. Paul *"Big Blue"* Sundberg with the 312 pound mako that George caught aboard the charterboat MONTAUK last week.

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marlin. The billfish was taken on 50 lb. test mono on a #950 Kencor Reel. They also had a mako of 85 lbs. On Wednesday, George Sachs of Huntington was aboard and took a mako shark of 312 lbs., which may be the largest to be taken at Montauk so far this year. On Saturday, the charter aboard had a 250 lb. mako shark within 25 feet of the boat before the wire popped. Rocco Romeo, who weighs in at only about 140 lbs., was on the rod with the big fish that won. But he made amends the next day. The party Rocco was fishing with was led by Eugene Boffa, an attorney from Jersey City, and they fished the weekend's Shark Tag Tournament. On Sunday, they took the blue shark division when Rocco whipped a large male blue shark of 266 lbs. The big blue took a live whiting fished in 215 feet of water, 25 miles south/southeast of the Point where the water temperature was 74°.

Capt. Buddy Dorman on the **Viking Skipper II** reported that the porgy fishing has been excellent along the south side. High hook for the week was Mike Dext of Montauk with 125 porgies. Saturday's fishing can only

Shown here is Capt. Bruce Hoek of the charter boat "Tara" with 7 bass from 16 to 52½ lbs., taken trolling large plugs at night at Great Eastern.

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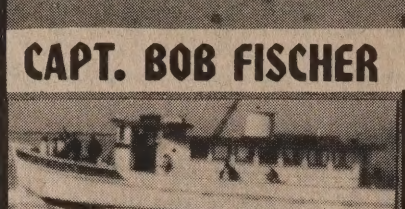

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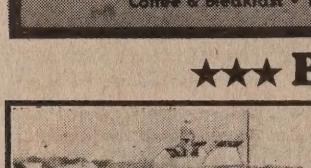

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be rated as okay, probably due to the bait problems created by heavy fog during the week. But fresh bait on Sunday really did the job and anglers loaded up. Ed and Gloria Bryan of The Bronx took over 300 lbs. of large porgies between them. A lot of the fish are 2 to 2½ lbs., with a few 3 lbrs. thrown in. The larger porgies are in deeper water with a sprinkling of sea bass. Capt. Dorman said that the pool was taken on Saturday by an angler who caught a big bluefish that decided to eat the porgy on the end of his line. Budd said that diamond jigs are also taking the porgies and those bringing sand worms for bait are really scoring.

Captain Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** reported that the offshore fishing has been fantastic. Monday's charter to Forty Fathoms produced a mount sized mako of 50 lbs. On Tuesday, another mako of 70 lbs. was taken, and Thursday's charter bagged a big blue shark of 258 lbs. They also hooked a white marlin that threw the hook after three jumps. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the fishing was done close to the dumping grounds east of the Point, where the boat picked up a mako shark and had a tiger shark estimated to be around 1,000 lbs., come up to the boat in the chum slick to say hello. To minimize loss of fish, Capt. Frank said he has been double-hooking mackerel fillets, but they must be rigged properly. Frank has built a house in Montauk and now can be reached at either of the numbers in his ad.

Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the best day with the striped bass was on Saturday. Fishing incoming water at Great Eastern and the Elbow, the charter aboard took 12 bass on jigs. John said that all the boats are loading up on big bluefish at the Submarine Buoy and weakfish are being taken trolling umbrella rigs and diamond jigging in the North Rips and Outer Shagwong.

Lou Rosado of **Herman's World of Sporting Goods** has been murdering weakfish in the evening along Gin Beach, casting the new Tri-Fin Sand

Chuck Rocco and Dan Scappatava with mako sharks of 168 and 147 lbs., taken aboard the "Sea Doll" out of Montauk.

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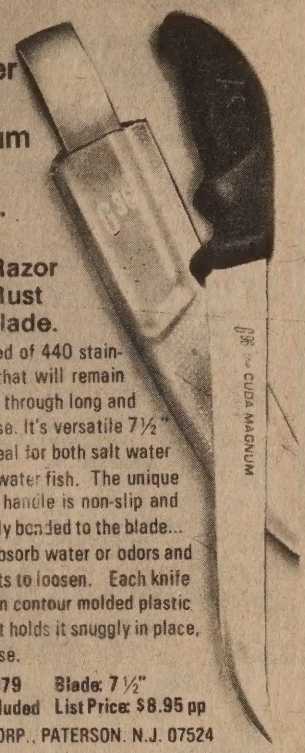

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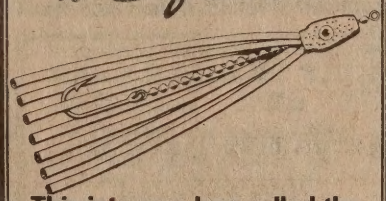

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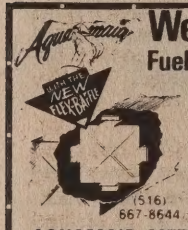

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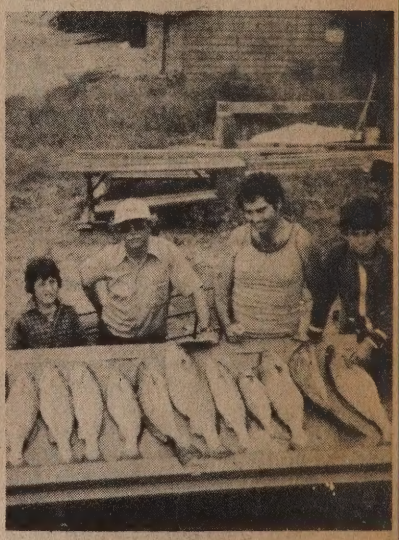

Local sharpshooter Dave Spendell, partner George Harak and kids Brian and Sandy, with 12 weaks and 1 blue to 11 lbs., taken at Crane's Neck on jigs. Photo courtesy of Mae's Way Fishing Station.

This 228-lb. mako shark was taken by 71 year old Fred H. Martens of Ft. Myers, Florida, fishing aboard the charterboat *Modar II* out of the Star Island Yacht Club with Capt. Pete Van Alst. The bait was a Florida mullet Pete brought up from the Keys where the Modar II fishes during the winter months.

el jigs. One night over 900 lbs. of eakfish were boated, but the next ight the fishing fell off consider-bly—only a little over 500 lbs. were ıken.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking ishing Fleet** reported that the fluke shing is still very good in the North ips and the pool fish on Friday was n 8 lb. doormat. Porgy fishing has een excellent at Gardiner's Island nd around the Point, with catches ieasured by the buckets and bags. he Coxes Ledge action has also been eally good lately with hangers in the 35-40 lb. class lining the rail everyday. The average cod ranges from 12 to 15 lbs. On Sunday, a large blue shark was caught that had attacked a codfish being reeled in.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that he is still finding terrific bluefishing both day and night. The average catch per man has been 10 to 12 fish a trip and the blues average about 12 lbs. Occasionally there will be a slow day, but as a rule the catches have been consistent on herring baits both at Cartwright and off Block Island.

Frieda at **Cove Marina** reported excellent fishing on all fronts, both inshore and offshore. Bluefishing has been terrific at both the Sub Buoy, Cartwright and Outer Shagwong. Fluke fishing is excellent at Outer Shagwong and the Midway Rips with doormats up to 8½ lbs., being weighed in. Fishermen have been murdering the weakfish every evening along Gin Beach and off Culloden Point casting Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs and Salty Dogs. The fish are all real tiderunners averaging 8 to 10 lbs. Doctor Fleishman on the boat "Abide" has been making excellent catches of stripers and weakfish diamond jigging around Outer Shagwong. The gang on the "Nancy-Y" had a fantastic trip on the weekend, when they took 38 weakfish fishing from 7-9PM, casting Red Fins off Culloden Point. Robert Reich trolled a 16½ lb. bluefish on an umbrella rig at Outer Shagwong. Capt. Bob Bipple on the "Surfmaster" has also been murdering the weakfish and bluefish at Outer Shagwong. Porgy fishing has been excellent around Great Eastern and the offshore fishing has been fantastic. Capt. Nick Lucas on the "Shark Hunter" had excellent action offshore on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the numerous blue sharks taken the boat had two small makos, a 119 lb. tiger shark and also baited a swordfish 32 miles from the Point. Mr. Polak harpooned two swordfish 52 miles offshore that weighed in at 119 lbs. and over 300 lbs. respectively. Bob Goodwin had a 325 lb. dusky Saturday.

Adios called to say Colleen Lowe, 8 years old, with help of her Dad, columnist Ed of Newsday, brought in a 165 lb blueshark on Tom Violagis, owner of the wine galleries, charter. His son Dean had a small tuna plus a mess of shark. Wed produced a 235 lb mako and many blueshark. Sat's charter had an extremely large blueshark almost pulling the angler overgoard plus many shark and a 36 lb baby mako.

Charterboat **Tara** called to say that the night bass fishing was very good on a full moon with a lot of large fish being caught. They had 2 fish over 50 lbs. Bluefishing is up and down. We still have open dates available in August for full moon nights.

Gone Fishing Marina reports that on Wednesday evening Hank Neville and Al Gaeke got 600 lbs of weakfish off Gin Beach. Friday night Ron Onorato and Hugh Fitzpatrick got 151 weaks up to 11 lbs and 3 bass up to 46 lbs casting off Gin Beach using 1 and 2 oz Tri-Fin sand eel rigs. On Sat Alyssa Ann got 80 lbs of porgies at Great Eastern and 80 lbs of blues at the sub-buoy on Diamond Jigs. Sunday Lady Stacey got 50 blues at the Triangle trolling with white tubes.

Charterboat **Barracuda** reported lots of blueshark offshore. Some tuna and white marlin in the chum slick. Bruce Kieffer caught a 52 lb striped bass on Tues night at Great Eastern on his boat the FEELING FREE.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** tells us that on Saturday Nat Henderson and group from NYC Transit Authority and Sunday's charter for Vinnie Holstrom, also with the NYC Transit Authority and group decked 1200 lbs. of porgies, fish up to 3½ lbs. on clam.

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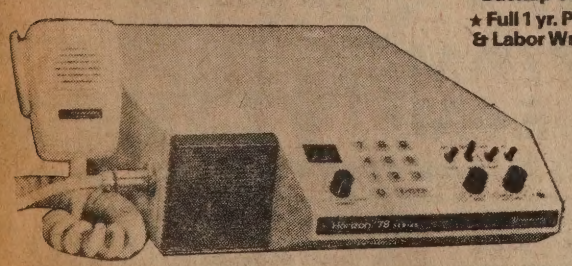

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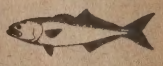

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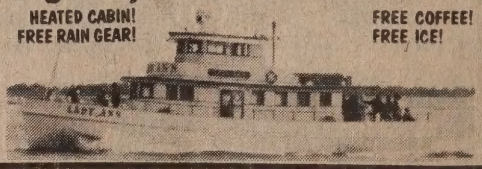

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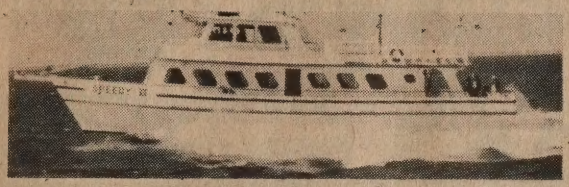

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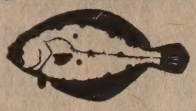

BLUES
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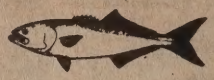

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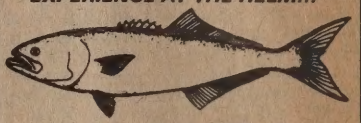

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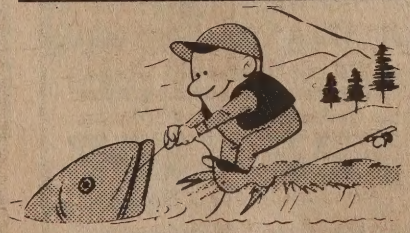

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COMPLETE ELECTRONICS

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UP TO 6 PASS.

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★ SPECIAL WEEKDAY CHARTER RATES ★

65' X 20' • Fast Twin Diesels • 600 H.P.

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BEST FLUKING IN YEARS!!!

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BIG 90' • ALL LATEST ELECT. • LADIES ACCOM.
HOT FOOD • HELPFUL CREW

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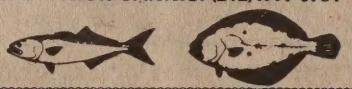
★7PM★ FRI. & SAT. **BLUES** ★7PM★ FRI. & SAT.

CAPT. NICK CANNISI (212)TA-7-0791



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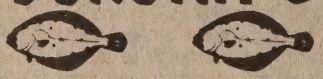

Big 85' • Latest Elect. • Helpful Crew

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72' Triple Diesel

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SEABASS BLACKS PORGIES

7 AM Daily • 75' Diesel Yacht

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BIG, NEW, FAST, COMFORTABLE!

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PORGIES & SEABASS

7 AM EVERY DAY • PIER 8

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75' Open Boat Sailing all year round!

Fast 20 Knots Cruising • Twin-Turbo-12 Diesels

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7 PM DAILY *(Exc. Sun.)*

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FLOUNDERS & BLACKFISH

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Say you saw it in

The Long Island

FISHERMAN

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Brookhaven Angler Tony Vaccaro fishing aboard Rich Ziedler Jr's **Miss Diane** on Sunday bagged a 52 lb 8 oz white marlin on a trolled eel with Jap feathers in front. He also had 2 50 lb Makos on bait. This was all in 41 fathoms of water on Sun.

Capt Clark reports good porgy fishing most of the week but slowing somewhat on the weekend. Raymond Challita of Elmhurst fished with Capt. Clark Jr on Sat with a total of 9 weaks and 21 porties. Summer weakfishing run improving every day and kingfish are now starting in Peconic and improving as the water warms up.

MORICHES BAY

Bill Getty along with Tom and Fred fished 130' of water 180 degrees out of Moriches Inlet last week taking 7 blue sharks up to 6 feet in length on mackerel. They also had 5 jumbo blues.

Silly Lilly Fishing Station reports fluke was good all week, the best being Thurs. and Fri., catches up to 12 keepers per boat. The weekend was slower due to the abundance of private boats and the high winds. The best action was from buoy 36-41 behind the sand bar at the CG station. Catches were made on spearing, killies and sandeels. Fish are fat going up to 3 lbs. There are more medium fish than barely keepers.

Mark at **Island Fishing Station** reported that the fluke fishing on the weekend was spotty with the best action taking place around buoy 25 and off the Coast Guard Station. Sand eel and squid combo baits have been producing their best on outgoing water. Some nice catches of flounder are being taken at buoy 25 and 27. On Wednesday, Capt. Bill Auth of the "Mariner" with Bob Sr. and Jr. Moorhead and Gene Asendorf took mako sharks of 110 and 205 lbs., along with two blue sharks in the 200 pound class. They fished 15 miles south/southeast of Moriches Inlet in 130 ft. of water, and during the day something grabbed a bait on the 90 rod and reel and promptly snapped the rod at the butt.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing picked up remarkably on the weekend. The large bluefish that had invaded the bay have finally left and it looks like the fluke have come out of hiding. On Saturday, Enrique Fraser and Joy Green of Brooklyn took 20 fluke drifting sand eels and squid at the end of the flood tide at buoy 42. On Sunday, George and Anna Miladinovic and Mike and Paulina Georgievski took 21 fluke up to 4¼ lbs., drifting spearing and squid at buoy 43.

On Saturday, **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reports Leo Boyce trolled 40 blues up to 12 lbs. on umbrellas in 90 ft. of water outside the Inlet. Also, Tony Rizzo had 28 blues up to 12 lbs., same area, trolling. On Sunday, Dan Clark on the Sea Horse, drifting in 170 ft. of water, 190° out of the Inlet got a 200 lb. mako, a 35 lb. mako and a 75 lb. blue shark. He also got 25 bonito trolling 125 ft. of water on feathers.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Stirizs Fishing Station tells of fluke from buoy 17-26, incoming best on killies, squid, spearing or sandeels. Blues from the bridge to buoy 19 with good catches being made on the Capt. Bill rig trolled on the high tide. Blue claws starting to show at buoys 17 and 15 in traps, and on rings. Lots of shark at 125' of water SW of the inlet. Gary Stiriz had 2 Makos of 100 and 150 lbs plus 3 blue sharks this week. Tons of big blues from the inlet to the sea buoy with some bonito and skipjacks mixed in.

SAYVILLE

Youngs Fishing Station tells of lots of weaks Saturday. Three men in one boat had 47 weaks fishing off Sayville behind the dredges drifting squid. Fish ran 2-6 lbs. Many others were dropped. Dave Crocko and Mike Gardiner boated 15 weaks Saturday working off Green Point about 2 miles drifting squid behind the dredges. On Sunday weaks were still being taken in the same area along with some bluefish. Sacttered blowfish with decent catches just east of Nichols Point. A few fluke in the state channel on killies and squid. A few weaks and squid at Cherry Grove on bait and jelly worms. Best weakfishing is behind the dredges behind Green Point and Sayville about 2 miles off the beach.

BAY SHORE

BAYSHORE Capt. Walter on the **Casey Lee** reports fluking has been fair most days, catches from 1-5 keeper fluke per man. These are mainly 2-3 lb fish with best catches coming from bayshore Channel, Dickersons and Ocean Beach on squid and killies.

Smokeys Bait & Tackle reports fluke caught this week at Snake Hill, Ocean Beach and Bayshore Chan. on live killies or squid/sandeel combos. Porgies in West Channel on clam and worms. Blues from the whistler out to 130' of water on Diamond jigs, bananas and umbrellas. Tuna on red and white or black and white feathers in 200' of water, 145 degrees out of the inlet.

CAPTREE

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to tell us the bluefishing has been great some nights and fair others. Friday night's charter, due to strong moon tides, saw only a fair catch of 53 choppers. Sunday night's reservation trip had the first few fish at 8 pm and this blossomed into a catch of over 200 giant blues from 8-16 lbs for 19 passengers. Fluke trips are fair, roughly 20-50 fluke per trip for the boat. On Sunday the charter wanted seabass so they went out to the Ocean Reef with good results on fish of mixed sizes.

Joe Harder of Tournament Anglers called to tell us that he, Bob Reily, Joe Massone, Jim Farrell and Bill Lubnieski ran out to the Canyon Wednesday and caught 3 big eye tuna weighing 221 lbs, 218 and 214 lbs on rigged balao and rigged squid on Joes **Blue Max**. These 3 monsters were all taken at the same time as the 3 lines all went off at once and one of them put the frosting on the pumpkin put the line around the prop. This group also trolled 2 bluefin tuna on Saturday 35 miles south of Jones. These were 20 lb class fish.

The Captain Jib Fleet reported that the fluke fishing is a very slow pick, but those that are caught are all a very nice size. Jane Lebenhart of Kew Gardens took the pool on the weekend with a 7 lb. 5 oz. fluke. The fluke are spread out all over the bay and you have to work hard for them.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that while the bluefishing was fantastic during the week it practically dropped dead on Saturday and Sunday. During the week, anglers were taking 500-600 blues a night and one night the fishing was particularly hot with 850 bluefish coming over the rails. The blues ranged in size from 5-12 lbs. and were close by between the lighthouse and the Fire Island reef. But for some reason, possibly the heavy boat traffic, the fishing fell off considerably on Saturday and Sunday.

OAK BEACH

State Channel Marina West reports fluking is improving a bit on sandeels and squid and some weakfish are being caught at night in the 7-8 lb class on the east side of the inlet on smelts and eels. Blues S,SW of the Whistler, very good on Sun for boats

★ NORTH SHORE ★

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CLAIRE FLEET
—From the *BRONX RIVER* at *WESTCHESTER AVE.*—
Featuring the ALL NEW, ULTRA-MODERN, SPEEDY
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BLUES • FLOUNDER • BLACKS
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6 AM DAILY **PORGY TIME** 6 AM DAILY
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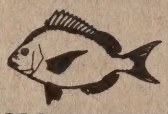
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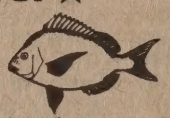

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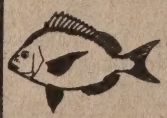
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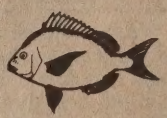
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EVER READY
$6.50 TUE., THURS., SAT. & SUN.
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Porgies • Flounder • Blacks • Weaks
BLUES SATURDAY & SUNDAY *4:30 AM to 7:30 AM—$7.00*
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trolling in 90' of water and also for bait and chum fishermen in the same area.

BABYLON

Augies Bait and Tackle reports that on Sunday a 58 lb white marlin was caught from a 19' Mako, Al Larenzetti Jr's SKIMMER in 150' of water on a Kona Head. Al is from Babylon. A 214 lb big eye tuna was taken by BTC member, Billy Mahler of Bright-waters. It took him 3½ hrs to land this brute. A 36 lb 2 oz big eye and a 22 lb bluefin were also taken in the weekend's BTC Tuna Contest. Fluke is so-so with west channel producing best. Ski says that the key is to find clear water free of weed. Lots of small snappers all over the place and lots of 4" baby weaks which all are requested to throw back to grow up to become nice tiderunners.

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** reports his skiffs are bringing back mixed biags of small blues and weakfish and fluke being taken at Snake Hill Channel and Dickersons Channel. Mario's son Kirk bagged a 4½ lb fluke in Snake Hill on squid and sandeel. Lots of snapper activity.

Capt. John Bilitsky of the charter-boat **Sea Ranger** called to tell us he had 4 shark charters this past week all of which were tagged and released. The boat had 2-6 shark per trip all blues and browns. In the 60-100 lb range. Also, each trip saw a 100 plus lb tuna brought up to the boat but lost before coming up on the boat. One of these fish striped a 6/0 all the way down to nothing!

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★ FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Capt. Bob Fisher of the charter boat of the same name wishes to apologize for the boo-boo this weekend committed by his staff on booking two different groups for the same date. Bob says this rarely happens, but this was one of those days. Aside from that, he says that the fluking was fair in the State Channel off Gilgo on killies and squid.

Out congratulations go to Otto Rounge from Surfside Three Tuna Club and friend Bob Seydel who chased and landed Otto's first Mako tipping the scale at 220 lbs. Daughter Debbie at the helm of OUR WATERBED during the chase. Caught at 150 degrees out of Fl Inlet in 130' of water. Good luck Otto!

Charlies Bait and Tackle reports some fluke being caught at the Copiague Hole, Fl Inlet and in front os the Lighthouse on sandeels, killies and squid while blues are being taken from the inlet on out by trollers chummers, and those working jigs and bananas. The trick is to find the fish and then do your thing. Tuna 40 miles plus on out on feathers and Cedar jigs. Lots of shark offshore especially blue shark. Blue claw crabs have started and snappers in the small variety are of abundance.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports snappers all over the bays and canals. Blues in the inlet and just outside in the 8-10 lb range on jigs, umbrellas and bait. Weaks at the Copiague Hole on jellyworms and also at the Sore thumb at sunrise. Stripers on bellies at the bridge and trolled Thur. and Fri off the beach on umbrellas. Fluke has been spotty. Blue claws good on the Amityville Flats, off the beaches and in the canals. Shark and bonito E of the NB along with big blues. Tuna in 90' of feet of water 160 degrees out of Jones.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle tells of tuna in 120' of water SE of Fl Inlet taken on Daisey chain squids and feathers. Bill Sprul, Bob and Bill Bianco and Tom Giles fishing 135' of water had a 125 lb brown shark and on the way back in trolled a 14 lb bluefin tuna at the 114' mark on a feather. Good weaks and blues outside Fl Inlet on bait or umbrellas. Weaks in front of the Lighthouse on live bunker. Kevin Hermann, Pat Richie and Barbara La Personbrie took 9 weakfish from 8-12 lbs on live bunker on Thursday. Fluking has been only fair, best around the shoreline and your best bet now is to anchor and chum.

SEAFORD

Bob at **Naomi Inn Fishing Station** tells us that Mac, Frank and Walter on the "Junkie II" had two 120 lb. makos fishing 30 plus miles out on Saturday, while Ken and Audrey across the Canal boated 45 blues diamond jigging roughly 3 miles south of the tower. Leroy and Tom Frances on their boat "Sunshine" had a healthy catch of blues, weaks and a couple of schoolie bass trolling umbrellas 40 ft. off the beach out of the inlet.

WANTAGH

Billy at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** tells of lots of blues being trolled and diamond jigged, with jigs especially effective when the fish are schooled up. This is around the area of the JI buoy with umbrellas working also, accounting for an incidental catch of bonito. Blues being caught at west end from the beach along with some weakfish on Hopkins and mackerel chunks. Tom Wenskus of Wantagh caught a mako on Friday fishing south of the HA, 170° out of Jones that bottomed out a scale at 250 lbs. The fish ran somewhere between 250 and 300 lbs. according to the market. Football tuna were taken Sunday around the HA on red and white feathers. Snappers at the park and at the bridges and a few bass falling to live bunker at the bridges as well.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that five stripers were taken in the State Channel east of Zach's Bay on live bunker. These fish ran from 25 to 28 lbs. each and died at dawn. The last of these fish took two bunkers being fished on two different rods. Fortunately, the two anglers were husband wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chick Wallace. Fluke are hot and cold, with Broad Creek Channel on the low being best this week. Carmen's Cut and Rowboat Alley also gave up a few fish. Lots of blues from the Inlet on out, all methods. Six football tuna were taken by Manny Friedman, Mike Stone, Morty Harris on the boat Missing Link. These fish were all hovering around 12½ lbs., and fell to red and white feathers 150° out of Jones in 140 feet of water.

The infamous G. Korn was forcibly ejected from a theater showing Jaws II when he jumped up on the stage and started spouting erroneous facts about sharks and shark fishing. He was soundly booed and hissed by the audience and after being showered with Coca-Cola cups and unpopped corn kernels, two usherettes threw him out of the theater. He was greatly peeved because he had not yet finished his package of twinkies that he had planned to nibble on during the movie.

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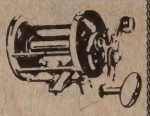

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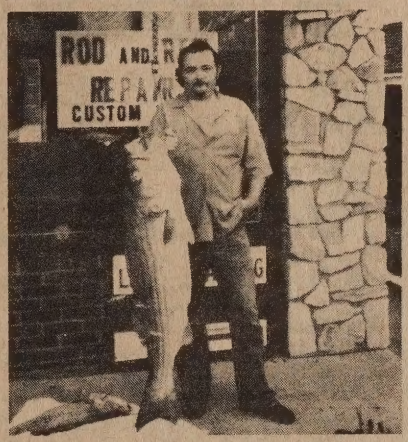

James Fallon bagged this 57 lb. striped bass off Short Beach in Jones Inlet on a floating Rebel. Photo courtesy of Merrick Marine Tackle Supply.

Roy at **Merrick Marine Tackle Supplies** tells the cryer of the week, of Norm Doctoroff who had a big mako on from 11:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. this week, when the fish suddenly won his freedom. Norm said it was six feet from the dorsal fin to the tail. Aside from this tale of woe, plenty of makos offshore and plenty of snappers in the bays. Tuna in 90 ft. of water on feathers and Cedar jigs. Bellmore angler Frank Minerva bagged a 48 lb. white marlin fishing 160° out of Jones in 130 ft. of water. Frank, when he first spotted the bill, thought he had snagged a stick.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Marina reports that Herb and Esther Kampton had blues up to 12 lbs., in 45 ft. of water southeast of Jones, trolling umbrellas on their boat, Big Mo. Mike Sullivan beat his own record, with a 5 lb. 6 oz. fluke on Saturday, taken on killies and squid at buoy 17, Reynolds Channel. Jim Johnson, Jr., had a 280 lb. hammerhead shark this week and Charlie Miller nabbed an 80 lb. mako on Jim Johnson Sr.'s Sea Quest.

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports that the day trips are mostly ling with some seabass and porgies mixed in, especially on weekdays. The night bluefishing has been fair to spectacular, being especially good on weekday nights. Capt. Chris who sails the boat on the night blue trips said that early in the week the boat had its best night in 5 years of bluefishing and while the exact number of fish was not reported, the boat must have been swimming in bluefish. Balance of the week the catches were in the few hundreds per trip.

The Captain Al reports day and night bluefish trips have been producing nicely, especially during the week, all fish of mixed sizes. Al asked us to tell you that his charterboat, **The Capt. II** will be sailing their 2 trips daily for fluke on the weekdays as an open boat from 8 am to 1 pm and a new afternoon sailing time, from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. See ad for details.

Capt. Sy Carlin from the **Blue Fin Fleet** called to tell us that he has been on bluefish charters the last 3 days taking fish on Diamond jigs from 3-5 miles off the beach. On Saturday Pat Kearns of Staten Island was hi-hook with 15 blues. On Sunday a bullet mackerel was caught. Sy says he still has some night blue charter dates open.

The Aloma II reports that while fluking has not been great, his fares have been averaging 3-5 fish per man working Jones Inlet. On Sunday there were 80 fluke for 45 men. Saturday saw 150 keepers for 40 men. People are catching some fish and enjoying the day. Most fish are in the 2½ lb class, catching on sandeels. The afternoon trips are seeing small weaks mixed in also.

Capt. Tony on the **Miss Freeport** tells us that on the Fri trip hi-hook was 9 fluke fishing the local creeks in the fog.

Capt. Bob Hewitt of the charterboat **Glad IEE** called to tell us that last Saturday for Bob Catania and party of Massapequa had an 80 lb blueshark and 2 Makos of 90 and 108 lbs fishing 140' of water. Bob found water temps of 70 degrees sailing 150 degrees out.

Charterboat **Apus** called to tell us that the bluefishing has been very

Bob Mangan of Flushing shows off the jaws of his 180 lb. mako shark taken aboard Captain Arnold's "Shalidon." Fish was caught 15 southeast of the HA buoy, other sharks were tagged and released.

good during the week and Saturday. At least 40 blues per trip in the 8-12 lb category both trolled and jigged in 40' of water South of the inlet. Sharking has been good with 3 makos boated during the week and others dropped. Sunday fishing in 150 feet of water SE of Jones luckless angler Sal Bizzini of Ridgewood lost a big mako after the fish took 2 leaps and spit the hook back at Sal. An estimated 200 lb yellow fin tuna was also accidently given his freedom by old Sal, after a 30 minute battle. Capt. Mike says that he still has some mid-week charter dates open.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that Mon's charter for John Vedilago, 7 miles South of the HA resulted ina 220 lb mako for John Dugan plus 2 makos in the slick that spit the hook. On Tues. Mr. Murray had 45 blues in the 2-5 lb range in 50' of water on white umbrellas. On Saturday the charger for Mr. Bruno had 43 bluefish also in the 2-5 lb range fishing south of Gilgo in 60' of water under birds on white umbrellas.

Dock Master Bob Kay of the **Freeport Boatmen's Assocation** tells us that all the Association boats had an exceptional week . Those that sailed for blues, bonito, and tuna found them in decent numbers. The boats out sharking caught and those out strictly for blues which seemed to be the majority of the boats, jigged, trolled and chummed choppers from 5-12 lbs. As you went into deeper water, bigger fish were found. Fluke and weak catches were fair in the local inlets and channels.

Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports weakfish at the Meadow Brook Bridge on sand worms fished 3 ft. off the bottom and also on six inch recoil worms. Striped bass between the Meadow brook bridge and the Jones Beach piers on the south side on live eels, bunker and sand worms. Blues from the inlet on out on all manner of artificials. The closer to the inlet, the smaller the bluefish. There are still lots of flounder being caught in Swift Creek, at the Meadow Brook Bridge and in the Fundy cut.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charterboat **Marie III** called to tell us that Thur's charter to the Mud Hole got them 9 shark plus a 138 lb bluefin tuna which took a whole mackerel on a shark rig. Three other tuna were lost. Saturday's charter pulled seabass and porgies over a wreck. Seabass ran from 2-3 lbs and porgies from 1½ to 2 lbs on clam and hi-lo rigs. They also jigged bluefish up to 4 lbs.

Ed's Fishing Station reports tha Bruno Grabiec and Walt Stevens c New Jersey took 30 fluke on Sunda trolling the flats. Blackfish continue t be taken at the Meadow Brook Bridg on fiddlers. Flounder are still bein taken at buoy 15 in the inlet and at th Coast Guard Station and som weakfish are being taken in Jone Inlet.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Bill of the **Ginnie Mae** report great fluking Sunday in some of hi pet spots up in the bay with a goo shot at the change of tide off Rei Park. Size-wise the fish are very goo says Bill. Action had been slowe earlier in the week. There were a lo of blues from ½ mile to 1 mile off th beach smashing bait on the surfac from Reis Park to Playland on the tro and on jigs.

Beckmann's Tackle reports that th best bet for fluke is off of Riis Par from the Marine Parkway Bridge t the Rockaway Playland. These fis are all keepers and are being taken i 15 feet of water on combos such a squid/sand eel and squid/spearing Blues and weakfish are being trolle on Bingle gorilla rigs and jigged o dandy tails and banana splits. Th blues are running from 3 to 12 lbs with an occasional 18 lbr and th weakfish are averaging 6-8 lbs.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina report that fluke up to 4 lbs. are takin killies, sand eels and squid at Duc Point, across from the hospital an between buoys 3 and 7. Bluefish ar being trolled and jigged at the Ti Can Grounds and off of buoy 4. Bas fishing has been off this week an tinker mackerel are being netted o the docks.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the **KIN** tells us that shark fishing is sti strong and excellent mako action wa had Mon-thru Fri though slower o the weekend due to the moon tide wind and boat traffic. A few duskie are now showing with water temp u to 73 degrees in spots. Trolling in th HA area some decent sized tuna hav been taken and also in that same are in shark chum slicks. Some bonito ar also being trolled. The Tin Can are has been producing lots of all size being trolled on Lupo umbrellas an also being jigged. There are enoug weaks and stripers mixed in to make t interesting. Some nice bass at th Atlantic Beach Bridge in the 20-30 l range on live bunker.

Hennings Fishing Station repor good fluking at Duck Point an Woodmere Channel. Scott Weiss toc a 5½ lb. fluke fishing a live snappe Bluefish from 3-5 lbs. are being take on jigs at the Silver Point jetty. Blue and weaks are being jigged an

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JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that nice blues are being taken at the North Channel bridge on strip or chunk bunker. Ralph Hernandez fished the south channel bridge with bunker chunks and took a 15 lb. 2 oz. bluefish on the outgoing tide. Snappers are being taken at the north channel bridge on spearing and small porgies are hitting worms. Blackfish are being taken in the bay on fiddlers and are running up to 6 lbs. Fluke can be found all over the bay and are taking killlies and squid.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The new **Amberjack V** which just came up from the builder and has been through the final CG inspections expects to be making its maiden voyage on Fri evening at 7 pm for blues. It is suggested that you call 212-336-2050 if you plan to sail to make sure that the boat will be ready to sail on this anticipated first sailing. Capt. Fred Ardolino says this immense all alum. super cruiser will be the queen of the fleet and he invites you all down.

The Elsie K III reports fluking was slow earlier in the week but has improved a bit fishing off Sea Bright and they are averaging 6-7 fluke per man. Saturday's pool was 8 lbs, Fri's 7 lbs 13 ozs. Large sized fluke are showing up. The boat is also working Atlantic Highlands and the fluke lul may well have ended.

Big Mohawk II reports excellent night bluefishing on blat at 3 sisters and jigs and bananas during the day from Long Branch to the Klondike. Fish are all mixed sizes from 4-12 lbs with bigger fish hitting at night.

Capt. Andy of the new **Traveler** reports the day fishing on the bottom for seabass and porgies and ling has been good with an upturn in the porgy fishing the last few days. Night blues have slowed down over the weekend due to the moon tide but should pick up again once we come out of the full moon phase. The boat has been working 3 sisters on bait.

The Blue Sea III reports that while the daytime fluking has been hot and cold off the Jersey coast the night bluefish catches have been fair to very good with the bluefish action Sat night being exceptionally good. Please note that the boat is sailing night blues Fri and Sat nights.

The Pilot II reports things have been a little slow on porgies, seabass and blacks due to the strong moon tides, but now that we are coming off the moon things should pick up again. Tom says divers see tons of porgies and the recorders mark huge schools of them and it's just a mater of time before they start to put on the feed

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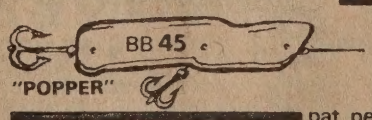

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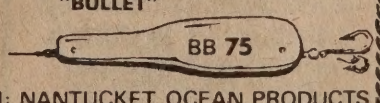

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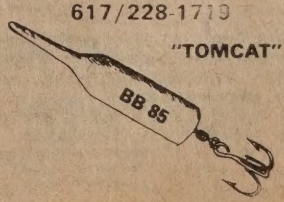

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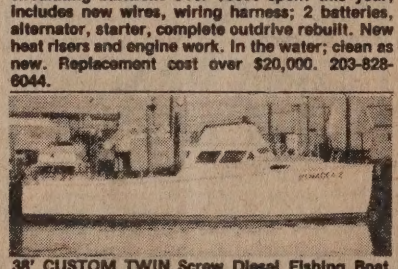

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bag. Some are being caught in the bays which means they should soon be hitting full strength in the ocean possibly by the ocean.

The Flamigo III reports it has been a tough week, erratic but he is putting together good catches anyway. Things busted wide open Sat and Sun on the Jersey coast with very good blues from small to jumbos plus about 100 weaks on Sun., all on Diamond jigss. They are feeding on hordes of live bait, spearing, shrimp and baby mackerel so they want a fast reeled diamond jig. Bananas only produced in deeper water for bigger fish. the boat is working Ambrose and some of its usual Jersey locations and a few stripers are mixed in as well.

The Dorothy B reports fluking slow in general at Long Branch, Sandy Hook and the Rockaways. There are fish from 3-6 lbs being caught, but quantity is down. The boat's 5 pm trips will now be for blues and weaks of which they are now making very good catches, only a short ride from the dock and they are back at 9 pm. These catches are being made on jigs.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that jumbo blues averaging 10 to 12 lbs. and up to 15, are taking bait at hotspots such as Berger Ave. storm sewer, South Beach storm sewer, Ft. Wadsworth and piers 8, 17 and 18. At low water these fish are being taken on lures and occasional 6 to 7 lb. weakfish are mixed in. There is a slow pick of striped bass at Cliff Street. These fish can be taken on Danny swimmers and Kastmasters. Bluefish from 1½ to 3 lbs. are taking small chunk bait from Great Kills Park to Princess Bay. When these fish hit the top they can be taken on any shiny lure. Boat fishermen are taking bluefish from Great Kills Park to Princess Bay on gorilla rigs and single tubes. Sand eels and squid are producing fluke in the above area, but there are more throwbacks than in previous weeks. Weakfish and striped bass are being taken on drifted worms at the 21 can at the VZ bridge. Larger weakfish up to 10 lbs. are being taken on drifted worms and trolled green and red bananas from buoy 4-Annadale to the #20 bug light in Princess Bay.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

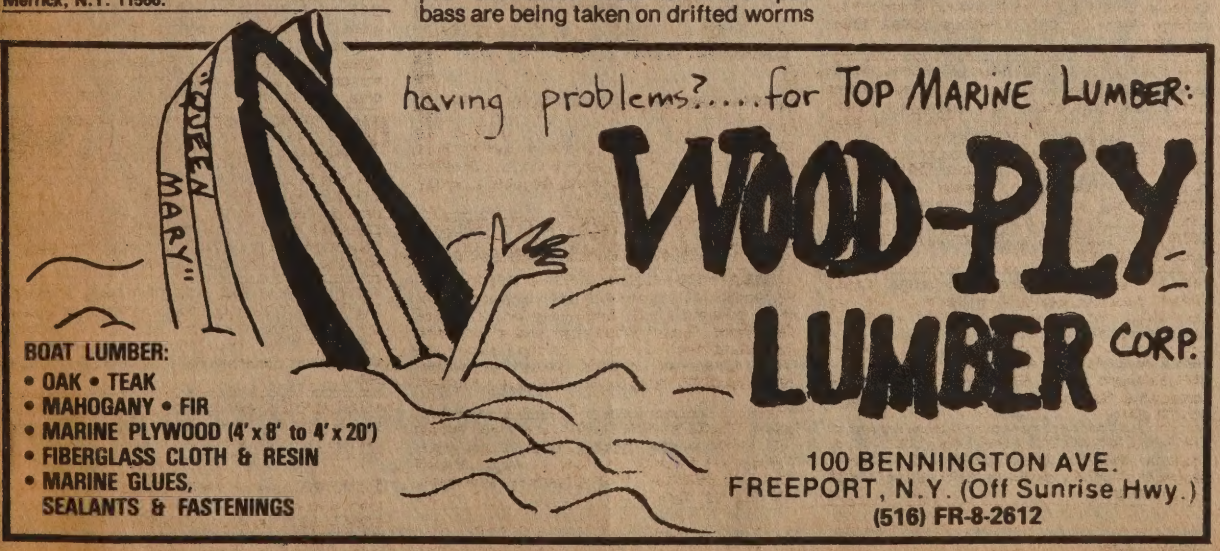
A. P. White Bait Shop reports that porgy fishermen are doing very well at Gardiner's Island and Fisher's Island. The **Brand X** and the **Wilhelric II** have been doing a job on these fish. Fluke up to 9 lbs. are being taken east of the Ruin and at Truman Beach. These fish are hitting sand eels, squid and shiners. Blackfish are still being taken up to 8 lbs. on fiddlers and worms at Plum and Gull Islands.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported some porgies taken in the bay over the weekend by buoy 16 in the Sound try off Petty's. Fluke are right off the Orient Point Station and blackfish are out by the Light. That was about it for fishing.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that on Saturday, John Mergerson took 163 porgies averaging 1 lb., two weakfish of 9 lbs. 6 oz. and 5 lbs. and one blackfish fishing sand worms and shiners at buoy 25-South Race. Not all catches were as high as above, but everyone is getting fish. Porgies, weakfish and more and more kingfish are showing.

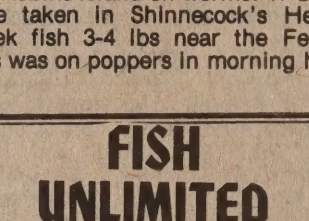


JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reported loads of porgies at different spots in the Sound. During the past week there were a few big fish taken in the Gut. One fellow weighed in a 57¼ lbr Saturday but wasn 't talking at all. Weakfish are taking whole sandworms fished in the South Race and off Rose's Grove.

Speck's Bait and Tackle in Southampton reports the Peconics produced good Sat and Sun on the porgies at buoys 22 and 23, Nassau Pt and Robins Island on worms. 17 blues were taken in Shinnecock's Heddy Creek fish 3-4 lbs near the Fence. This was on poppers in morning hrs.

FISH UNLIMITED



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SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports that Pete Tores, Tony Mul-Lendez and Saul Pizzaro had over 175 porgies Saturday fishing at Cedar Point on worms, clam and squid. Good porgy catches were also made at Gibbsons.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

ROCKY POINT

The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reports great bluefishing right outside the harbor. Boats are taking loads of 2-5 lb. blues by either trolling or jigging and if you can get through the schools of blues, there are 5-7 lb. weakfish underneath. Carl, Bill and Bart Crownover took 28 fluke from 3-8½ lbs., at buoy 5 on pink Viking Shrimpies and sea robin strips. Porgies are being taken off the beaches on worms and bass fishing east of Wading River has been slow.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that blues from 3-5 lbs. and weakfish from 6-10 lbs., are being taken between buoys 11 and 9 on Ava-27s and Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs. Porgies up to 2 lbs., are being taken along the beaches on worms and skimmer clams. Fluke fishing has been pretty good off of buoys 9 and 11. Average fish has been weighing 2½ to 4 lbs., and the best bait to use is sand eel and squid combos.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported the blue and weakfishing was good the early part of last week but slowed down toward the weekend. The moon tides might have had something to do with it. Fish were still caught but not in previous numbers. Still plenty of bait in the area. Blues went 3 to 5 lbs with very few 15 lbrs. The weaks are up to 14 and laying right along the drip off buoy 11. There's some nice fluke around that are being overlooked by folks who have bluefish fever. Fr. Tripak jigged up 14 fluke on Saturday and 14 more on Sunday Sizes went to 7 lbs.

The Betty W reported plenty o blues and weaks during the weekday from Cranes Neck to Wading Rive biggest blue was a 16 lbr and an 11 was the biggest weak. Last Friday th boat was back by 1:30 as 24 angler took 350 blues and 65 weaks. Th action slowed a little Sunday so th boat went bottom fishing for a goo catch of porgies.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Statio** reports that the bluefishing remain excellent except for the expecte weekend slow-down. Some goo porgy catches are being taken but yo have to work hard to find the schoo On Friday, Ralph Liguori took 2 blues and 4 big weakfish on Diamon jigs off of Mackimah. Also on Friday Mike Andriaccio weighed in a 6 lb. oz. fluke that ate a squid and sand e combo at Callahan's. On Saturday Sal Bruno and family found a school o small blues off of Lilco and use popping plugs to take 20 of them Charlie Savvas and friend Mik caught two pails of porgies o Crane's Neck on Saturday using san worms and clams for bait. Porg catches held up on Sunday wit several rental boats coming in with 5 lbs. or more.

NORTHPORT

Bowmans Sporting Goods says hi area is relly busting loose. On Sa morning at buoy 15 off Lloyds, blue were erupting on the surface an hitting anything fishermen threw a them. These were 7-15 lb fish an those who stayed out till late mornin had 50-60 of these choppers. Boat from 14' tin cans to 100' partyboat worked the area over and it was a history by 11 am. At 10 am on Sunda the fish reappeared in Oyster Ba Harbor, same frantic scene. Weak off Marshall Fields. On Monday blue and weaks from Ashroaken to Eaton Neck in the early morning. To weighed in a 14 lb 8 oz blue taken on white umbrella by Northport angle Wm Belski. He also weighed in a 9 l 8 oz weak and 3 blues for Vinn Vitkovich taking at the CG Station o a Diamond jig. On Friday Bob Sr an Jr and Charlie Tota at Eatons Nec bagged an 18 lb bass and a 13 lb 4 o bass, a 9 lb 8 oz and a 6 ¾ lb weakfis and a 5 lb 3 oz fluke all on an umbrell rig, fished close to the bottom. To said this week was the best fishing the season so far. Blues almo anywhere.

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HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle Shop reported ots and lots of blues last week. Most ish went 3 to 6 lbs with an occassional 1 lbr. Trolling umbrellas or jigging as produced. George is making up a cottie rig that is producing multiple lits. This fishing is reminiscent of 8 to 0 years ago. Hotspots were buoy 15 ff Lloyds Neck and the obstruction uoy of Eatons Neck. Av erage catch s probably 25 fish per boat with a lot f guys doing better than that. If you an get down past the blues, you tand a chance of every 7th fish being weak from 6 to 10 lbs. Every once in while these ish come up on top and ou can get them with Hopkins, Castmasters or the Tri Fin Eel Worm. lenty of good porgy fishing around uoy 8 inside Northport Bay, between uoys 6 and 8 off Marshall Field and umber 13 off Eatons and between he Lilco platform and Sunken Meado . Some of the fish are going etter than 2 lbs. Not much on the luke. It doesn't look to be a good year or this species.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports hat Carol Bala of Huntington had a 0½ lb. weakfish jigging off of Eaton's Neck. Tony Basillicato of Huntington Station took 18 striped ass to 28 lbs., worm trolling at Marshall Field. Boaters have been ading up with 3 to 15 lb. blues at loyd's Point and Eaton's Neck. hese fish are taking umbrellas and iamond jigs and there are a few veakfish mixed in. On occasion, these lues can be found on the surface in he early morning and late afternoon nd nice sized fish are being taken on opping plugs. Nice sized porgies rom ½ to 1½ lbs. are being taken on vorms and clams off of Callahan's. arge fluke up to 8¾ lbs. are hitting rifted sand eel and squid combos off Eaton's Neck.

Capt. Don of the charterboat **ever eady** called to say that Saturday's unrise bluefish trip saw hundreds of lues taken. 9 yr old Scott Pappa of Dix Hills caught a pair of 5½ lbrs while Fred Knopf won the pool with a 12 lbr 12 oz weakfish. On Sun's luefish run, Mike Budela took the ool with a 9½ lb blue. On Tues's trip Carol Bala of Huntington won the pool with the largest weak caught yet aboard the **Ever Ready**, 13½ lbs.

Charter boat **Foxy Lady** called to tell us he had a charter with Ed Ciminelli on Friday, with 75 bluefish boated up to 8 lbs. on diamond jigs off Diamond Point. Sunday's charter for Bill McDevitt and friends boated 35 blues and a weak on jigs and umbrellas at Cold Spring Harbor.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

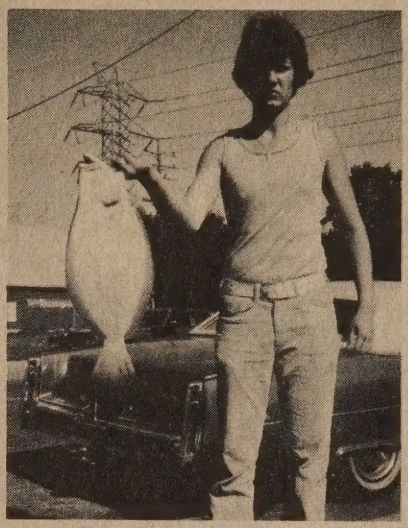
★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports that plenty of 3-5 lb. blues can be found in the area. These fish are hitting diamond jigs and Lloyd's Neck seems to be the hotspot. Porgies seem to be all over the sound and are averaging 1 pound and taking worms.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reported a load of porgies showed up last Friday. The rental boats that went out Saturday morning at 6 am were back in by 12 with all the fish they wanted. The same thing happened Sunday. Most of the fish are up by New Rochelle. Plenty of blues from Harts Island to the east. The City Island boats are jigging them during the day but can't get them at night. There's a couple schools moving around. One day the fishing boats found 3 to 5 lbs off Hempstead while another fellow hit 12 to 14 lbrs off Hens and Chickens off Larchmont. Bass up to 12 lbs were caught at Harts Island. One customer was jigging a Smilin Bill with pork rind for blues when he decided to move in close and picked up 10 bass.



Jim Stotzky with a 7½ lb. fluke taken at Scott's Beach on an umbrella rig with white tubes. Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

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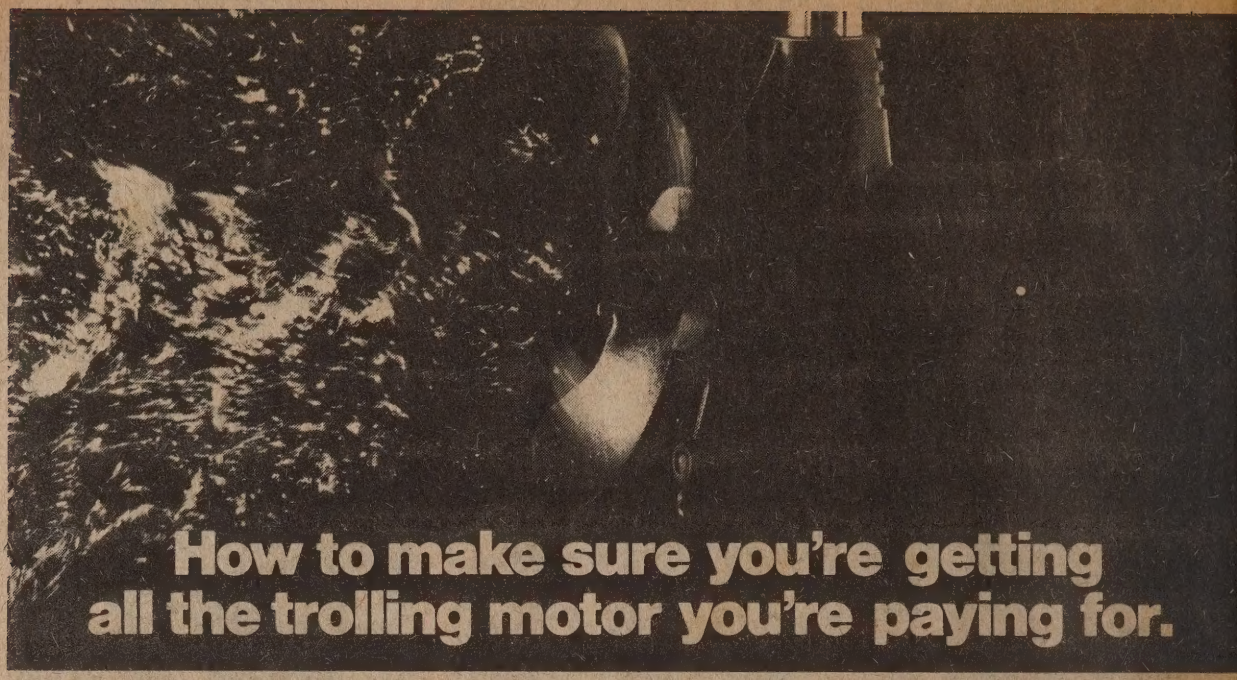

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